

Questions to Ask Your Doctor About a Surgical Procedure

Your health care is a team effort, and you are the most important member. To make sure you get the best possible care, be prepared for your appointment and don't be afraid to ask questions before, during and after your visit. We've prepared a list of common questions to ask your provider. If you don't understand your provider's answers, don't be afraid to ask for further explanation so you can follow through on suggestions for your long-term wellness.

- **Why do I need surgery?**
- **Can I do something else to treat this?**
- **What kind of surgery do I need?**
- **Can you explain what you will do?**
- **Have you done this procedure before?**
- **How long will it take?**
- **What are the risks for this procedure?**
- **Will I need anesthesia?**
- **Will this be a same-day procedure or will I stay in the hospital? If so, how long?**
- **How long will it take me to recover? Will I need to take time off work/school?**
- **Will I need assistance at home while I recover?**
- **What are the long-term side effects of this surgery?**
- **Will I need to do any therapy after surgery?**
- **When can I resume normal activities?**
- **What if I decide not to do this procedure?**
- **Does this procedure require a preauthorization?**

Notes:
