

Surgery can be scary.

That's why some patients and families used their experience to make this brochure. It has questions they think are important.

You can circle the ones you want to ask, and write your own questions on the back.

**It's OK if you don't want to ask some of these questions.**

You can ask the surgeon about whatever is important to you. You can tell the surgeon how much or how little you want to know. And you can ask the surgeon to explain anything you don't understand.

You have options for treatment.

We hope this brochure helps you and your surgeon decide what's right for you.

## NOTES

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This brochure is intended for patients who are thinking about major surgery. Some of the questions might not be important to patients thinking about minor surgery.

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Talking with a surgeon?

**Here are some questions you can ask.**

To help you decide what's right for you.

## Should I have surgery?

- What are my options?
- What is likely to happen if I do have surgery? If I don't have surgery?
- In your opinion, will surgery make me feel better?
- In your opinion, will surgery help me live longer? If so, how much longer?

## What should I expect if everything goes well?

- How do you think my daily life will look after surgery? Right after surgery, three months later, one year later?
- Will I have any tubes or drains put in during or after surgery? Will I need them at home?
- In your opinion, how will this surgery affect my other health problems (such as diabetes or high blood pressure)?
- After I leave the hospital, what type of care do you think I will need?

## What happens if things go wrong after surgery?

- Can you describe serious complications and explain what those might mean for me?
- If I'm too sick to speak for myself, how can I make sure you know my wishes?
- If I decide to appoint someone to make medical decisions for me, what do I need to do to make those arrangements official?