

Questions to Ask Before Agreeing to Surgery¹

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General Questions

1. What is this surgery for? Will it eliminate my problem or slow my condition?

2. What other treatment options might I consider?

3. What will happen if I don't have this surgery?

4. What are the risks of the surgery and what are the success rates?

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² Adapted from *AARP Health Questions: How to talk to and select physicians, pharmacists, dentists & vision care specialists* Carolyn S. Wilken, Ph.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor, Family, Youth and Community Sciences, IFAS, University of Florida. . Reviewed by: Tina Lam, MD, and Mary Harrison, professor, Department of Family, Youth, and Community Sciences, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida.

5. Can you do the surgery on an outpatient basis and can I arrange to have appropriate care to recuperate at home instead of the hospital?

6. What kind of help would I need? Who can help me make those arrangements?

7. Can you recommend someone to give me a second opinion?

Financial Questions

1. Who can answer my questions about the costs of this surgery?

2. What is the cost of the operation and follow-up care? Is it covered by my insurance

3. Will Medicare or my insurance cover those costs? Who can answer my questions about costs?

3. Do I need to clear this with my insurance company or Medicare?
