

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR

Breast Cancer Surgery

The goal of breast cancer surgery is to remove the entire tumor from the breast. There are 2 types of surgery to remove breast cancer: [lumpectomy](#) or [mastectomy](#). If your treatment plan includes surgery, you may be unsure of what to ask your doctor.

Here are some questions to help start the conversation. More can be found [here](#).

Q: What type of breast cancer surgery do you suggest for me? Can I have a lumpectomy plus radiation therapy? If not, why not?

A: _____

Q: Will I need other treatments before or after surgery? If so, who will coordinate my care?

A: _____

Q: Will some or all of my lymph nodes be removed during surgery? If so, how will this be done?

A: _____

Q: How long will I be in the hospital? Will I need help when I get home?

A: _____

Q: Will I have a drain (tube that removes fluid from the breast) in place when I get home? If so, how will I care for it? When will it be removed?

A: _____

Q: What side effects might I have after surgery (i.e., pain, bruising, scarring, numbness) and how long will they last? Which ones do I need to report to you? When can I get back to my normal routine?

A: _____

Q: What tests will be done on my tumor? How will this help guide my treatment plan?

A: _____

Q: Will part of the tissue removed be saved? If so, where and for how long? How can it be accessed in the future?

A: _____

Q: If I want breast reconstruction, what are my options? When can it be done? Will you refer me to a breast reconstruction specialist?

A: _____

Q: When can I start to treat my scar on my own? Do you recommend products that contain ingredients like arnica, aloe vera or rosa mosqueta oil to treat my scar?

A: _____

Notes:



For more information on breast health or breast cancer, please call the Komen Patient Care Center's Breast Care Helpline 1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET and Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET or visit komen.org. Susan G. Komen does not provide medical advice.

1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) komen.org