

Pink Ribbon Boutique



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PRE-SURGERY QUESTIONS

Before surgery, it is important to educate yourself about the options available to you. It is beneficial to have an active support team of friends and family who can help you sort through the wealth of information available from the internet, media, and your medical team. Physicians are a source of information valued by the majority of patients as the most authoritative. After learning as much as you can about the various treatments, use the questions below when you meet with your physicians.

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| What kind of surgery do you recommend for me? | How often will I see you for follow-up care? |
| How much of my breast will be removed? | If I have a mastectomy, am I a candidate for reconstruction? |
| Will I have a nurse navigator? | What options do I have? |
| What are the risks of this surgery? | If I decide on reconstruction, what type of reconstruction would you recommend? |
| What are the risks if I decide not to have the surgery? | Do you have photos of other surgeries you have performed? Any photos of my similar body type? |
| Why do I need this particular procedure? | How long will an implant last? |
| What kind of incision will I have? | What happens if I gain or lose weight? |
| Will I have a lymph node dissection (removal)? If so, how many lymph nodes do you anticipate will be removed? | How much pain or discomfort can I expect after reconstructive surgery? |
| What are my options for anesthesia? | Will I need more than one surgery? Will they require general anesthesia? |
| Will you visit me following my surgery? | When will you have the result of my pathology tests? Will I come in to discuss them or will you phone me? |
| How long can I expect to stay in the hospital? | Will my medical insurance cover all charges from you and the hospital? |
| What kind of follow-up care will I need? | What restrictions will I have on my normal activities while recovering? |
| How will I feel after surgery? Will I need pain medication? | How much help will I need at home to care for the drains and surgery site? |
| How long will my recovery take? | Is physical therapy recommended as part of my recovery? |
| Are there symptoms I should be aware of that would alert me to contact you immediately? | Should I expect swelling in my arms? What steps can I take to help the onset of lymphedema? |