

Before Breast Surgery

Your treatment options depend on many factors, such as your age, tumor stage and estrogen receptor (ER) status. Deciding on a treatment plan is as much a personal matter as it is a medical one. Your treatment should be based on the treatment's risks and benefits and how these relate to your personal values and lifestyle.

Answer to these questions will help you prepare for your surgery.

Q: What type of surgery do you recommend and why?

A:

Q: Can breast reconstruction be done at the time of surgery, as well as later? Can you refer me to a reconstructive surgeon before my surgery?

A:

Q: How long will I be in the hospital? Will I need someone to help me when I return home from the hospital?

A:

Q: How should I expect to feel after the operation? What restrictions will I have on my normal activities?

A:

Q: Where will the surgical scar(s) be located? Will I experience any change in sensation after the surgery?

A:

Q: Will I have a surgical drain in place when I go home? If so, how will I care for it? When will it be removed?

A:

Q: When should I return for a follow-up appointment?

A:

Q: What side effects might I expect after surgery (i.e., pain, tenderness, bruising, scarring, numbness)?

A:

Q: What are my risks of long-term complications or side effects from surgery?

A:

Q: Will I need any other treatments? If so, which ones and how long after surgery will I begin the other treatment?

A: