



Breast Cancer Surgery

If your treatment plan includes surgery, getting the answers to these questions can help you prepare.

Q: What type of breast cancer surgery do you suggest for me and why?

A:

Q: Will some or all of my lymph nodes be removed? If so, when and 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: How might I feel after surgery? When will I get back to my normal routine? Is there anything I should avoid doing?

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, tenderness, bruising, scarring, numbness)? Which ones do I need to report to you? Will any of the side effects be long-term?

A:

Q: When will I find out the results of the surgery?

A:

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

A:

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

A:

Q: Will part of the tissue removed during surgery be saved? If so, where will it be stored? For how long? How can it be accessed in the future?

A:

If you had lymph nodes removed, ask the following:

Q: What is lymphedema? Am I at risk for it? How is it treated?

A:

Q: What should I do to help protect my arm after surgery?

A:

Q: Are there exercises I can do? Anything to avoid?

A:



For more information on breast health or breast cancer, please call our breast care helpline (1-877-465-6636) or visit our website. Susan G. Komen does not provide medical advice.

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