

Should I have surgery?

- What are my options?

- What is likely to happen if I do have surgery? If I don't have surgery?

- In your opinion, will surgery make me feel better?

- In your opinion, will surgery help me live longer? If so, how much longer?

- Do I need to stop any of my medications early?

What should I expect if everything goes well?

- How do you think my daily life will look after surgery? Right after surgery? Three months later? One year later?

- What will I be able to do that I cannot do now?

- Will I have any tubes or drains put in during or after surgery? Will I need them at home?

- I live in a rural area - when will I be able to go home?

- In your opinion, how will this surgery affect my other health issues (such as diabetes or high blood pressure?)

- After I leave the hospital, what type of help do you think I will need? (medical equipment, caregivers)

What happens if things go wrong after surgery?

- Can you describe serious complications and explain what those might mean for me?

- If I'm too sick to speak for myself, how can I make sure you know my wishes?

- If I decide to appoint someone to make medical decisions for me, what do I need to do to make those arrangements official?
