

Questions to Ask Your Surgical Team

- **What type of surgery will I be having?**
- **How much tissue are you planning to remove?**
- **Is there a chance that you will need to remove more tissue than you expect? What may need to be removed? Why?**
- **How many similar surgical procedures have you performed?**
- **What is your success rate?**
- **What is the risk of death or disability?**
- **What if I decide not to have the surgery?**
- **How long does this type of surgery usually last?**
- **Will my family be updated about what's going on while I'm in surgery?**

- **Once the surgery is over, where will I be recovering?**
- **What types of tubes and wires can I expect to be in place when I wake up?**
- **Will I look different after surgery? Will it be permanent?**
- **Will I be able to breathe normally after surgery? If no, what can I expect?**
- **Will I be able to eat normally after surgery? If no, what can I expect?**
- **Will I be able to speak normally after surgery? If no, what can I do to communicate with the hospital staff and my family?**
- **How will my pain be managed?**
- **What long-term complications should I expect after surgery?**
- **How will you know if all of the cancer has been removed?**
- **What will happen if you aren't able to remove all of the cancer?**

- **How long will it take to return to normal activities?**
- **Will I need reconstructive surgery?**
- **Will the same surgeon or a different surgeon perform the reconstructive surgery?**