

# Cancer Surgery

## Questions to Ask Your Doctor

Learning that you have cancer is a difficult experience. After a cancer diagnosis, you may feel anxious, afraid or overwhelmed. So many thoughts are running through your mind that it might be easy to forget important questions and concerns.

Here are some questions about cancer surgery, a common treatment for cancer. These questions can help you make important decisions about your care.

Also, you may want to bring a family member or friend with you to your doctor appointment. That person can help you ask questions and write down the information that the doctor gives you.

### 1. Why do I need surgery? What other treatments are available instead of surgery?

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### 2. What is the goal of my surgery?

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### 3. What are the potential risks and side effects?

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4. How long will I be in the hospital? How long will my recovery take?

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5. What side effects should I watch for? When should I call my doctor?

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6. Do I have time to think about my options or get a second opinion?

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## Where can I get more information?

The National Cancer Institute provides accurate and up-to-date information about clinical trials, cancer types, prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and end of life care.

**Phone:** 1-800-4CANCER (1-800-422-6237)

**Website:** [www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov)

The Rural Cancer Network (RCaN) offers other user-friendly, cancer educational handouts. For more information about other cancer-related topics, please see the RCaN website.

**Website:** [www.ruralcancernetwork.org](http://www.ruralcancernetwork.org)



**Carbone Cancer Center**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH



[ruralcancernetwork.org](http://ruralcancernetwork.org)



**Cancer Health  
Disparities Initiative**

**For more local information, please contact:**

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