

That's why some patients and families used their experience to make this brochure. It has questions they think are important. This brochure has important questions to ask your surgeon. You can circle the ones you want to ask, and write your own questions on the back.

You can ask the surgeon about whatever is important to you. You can tell the surgeon how much or how little you want to know. You can ask the surgeon to explain anything you do not understand.

We hope this brochure helps you and your surgeon decide what's right for you.

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Steffens NM, Tucholka JL, Nabozny MJ, Schmick AE, Brasel KJ, Schwarze ML. Engaging Patients, Health Care Professionals, and Community Members to Improve Preoperative Decision Making for Older Adults Facing High-Risk Surgery. *JAMA Surgery*. 2016; in



Here are some questions  
you can ask to help you  
decide what's **Right For  
You.**



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## Should I have surgery?

- ☐ What are my options?
- ☐ What is likely to happen if I do have surgery? If I do not 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?
- ☐ How long can surgery be put off before it becomes an emergency?

## What should I expect if everything goes well?

- ☐ How do you think my daily life will look after surgery? Right after, three months later, one year later?
- ☐ Will I have any tubes or drains put in during or after surgery? Will I need them at home?
- ☐ In your opinion, how will this surgery affect other health problems (such as diabetes or high blood pressure)?
- ☐ After I leave the hospital, what type of care do you think I will need?

## What should I expect if everything doesn't go well?

- ☐ Can you describe serious complications and explain what those might mean for me?
- ☐ If I am 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?