

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?