

## Question checklist for surgery

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Asking your doctor questions will help you make an informed choice. You may want to include some of the questions below in your own list.

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### Information about the surgeon

- Do you work in a multidisciplinary team (MDT)?
  - Do you specialise in this type of surgery? How were you trained?
  - How many times have you done this surgery?
  - Which hospitals do you operate in?
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### Treatment choice

- Why do I need surgery?
  - Are there other treatment choices for me?
  - What are the advantages and disadvantages of surgery for me?
  - How successful is this type of surgery for this type of cancer?
  - Are there clinical practice guidelines on how to treat this type of cancer?
  - How much does the surgery cost? Are there any out-of-pocket expenses not covered by Medicare or my private health cover?
  - Are there extra costs I should know about, such as costs related to anaesthesia?
  - Can the cost be reduced if I can't afford it?
  - Can I get a second opinion?
  - How long do I have to make a decision?
  - Will I need other treatment before or after surgery?
  - Are there any clinical trials or research studies I could join?
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### The surgery

- How can I prepare myself for surgery and improve my recovery?
  - What type of surgery will I have (e.g. open surgery or keyhole surgery)?
  - What exactly will you do during the operation? Will you remove part of the tumour or all of the cancer?
  - How long will the surgery take?
  - Could your plans for the surgery change? Why?
  - What anaesthetic will I receive? How will it be given?
  - When will I meet the anaesthetist?
  - What are the potential risks and complications of the surgery?
  - Will I need a blood transfusion?
  - Where will I have the surgery?
  - How will we know if the surgery was successful?
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### Side effects and recovery

- What are the side effects of the surgery (e.g. will it affect my mobility, diet, ability to work, fertility, sex life)? What are the long-term impacts?
  - Will I have tubes and drains?
  - Will I have a lot of pain? What will be done about this?
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