

Understanding your Surgery:

A Few Examples of Questions to Consider Asking During Your Appointment



We encourage you to speak with your surgeon about your individual treatment options.

1. Understanding Your Diagnosis

- What type of breast cancer do I have ?
- What is the stage and grade of my cancer?
- How large is the tumor, and has it spread to any lymph nodes?

2. Exploring Your Surgical Options

- Am I a candidate for both a lumpectomy and a mastectomy?
- What are the pros and cons of each choice for my specific diagnosis?
- If I choose a lumpectomy, how will you preserve the appearance of my breast?

3. Planning for Surgery & Clarity in the OR

- How do you ensure you got all the cancer during surgery?
- What tools do you use to evaluate the tissue margins in the operating room?
- For my specific cancer, what distance is considered a "clean" margin?
- How likely is it that I may need an additional surgery?
- What is your re-excision rate for this type of surgery?

4. Next Steps & Follow-Up Care

- What is my risk of the cancer coming back after surgery?
- If all my margins are negative, what are the next steps for my treatment?
- What about if there is a positive margin?

