



# QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR

## Breast Reconstruction

If your breast was removed during breast cancer surgery, you may choose to have [breast reconstruction](#) to help restore the look of your breast. It may be done at the same time as your mastectomy or later. This choice will depend on your wishes and your doctor's recommendation. If you have more treatment planned this may also affect this decision or the timing of this surgery.

You may feel overwhelmed and unsure of what to ask your doctor. Here are some questions to help start the conversation. More can be found [here](#).

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**Q:** When should I have reconstruction – now or later? Why?

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Q:** May I see pictures of reconstructive surgeries you've done?

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Q:** What are the short- and long-term effects of each type of reconstruction? What are the risks of each type?

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Q:** How many surgeries will I need?

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Q:** How long is each surgery? How long will I be in the hospital?

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Q: What is the recovery process?

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Q: How will my reconstructed breast look and feel? How will it compare with my other breast? Will I need surgery on the other breast?

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Q: After reconstruction, what breast cancer screening do you recommend for me, and why?

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Q: If I choose not to have reconstruction, what are my options? What can you tell me about going flat? Can I use a breast prosthesis? Where can I buy them? Will insurance pay for them?

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Q: If breast cancer comes back, how will I know? What should I look for?

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

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For more information on breast health or breast cancer, please call the Komen Patient Care Center's Breast Care Helpline 1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET and Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET or visit [komen.org](http://komen.org). Susan G. Komen does not provide medical advice.

**1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) [komen.org](http://komen.org)**