

## Breast Cancer Surgery

If your treatment plan includes surgery, you may be unsure of what to ask your doctor. Here are some questions to help start the conversation.

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Q: What type of breast cancer surgery do you suggest for me and why?

A:

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Q: Will I need any other treatments? Will I need any treatments before surgery? If so, which ones and how long after surgery will they start?

A:

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Q: Will some or all of my lymph nodes be removed during surgery? If so, when and how will this be done?

A:

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Q: How long will I be in the hospital? Will I need help when I get home?

A:

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Q: How might I feel after surgery? When will I get back to my normal routine? Is there anything I should avoid doing?

A:

Q: Will I have a drain (tube that removes fluid from the breast) in place when I get home? If so, how will I care for it? When will it be removed?

A:

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Q: What tests will be done on my tumor? How will this help guide my treatment plan? Will part of the tissue removed be saved? If so, where and for how long? How can it be accessed in the future?

A:

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Q: When can I start to treat my scar on my own? Do you recommend ingredients like Arnica, Aloe Vera or Rosa Mosqueta Oil to treat my scar? How can I prepare my skin before surgery?

A:

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Q: When will I find out the results of the surgery?

A:

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Q: If I want breast reconstruction, what are my options? When can it be done? Will you refer me to a breast reconstruction specialist?

A:

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Q: What side effects might I have after surgery (i.e., pain, tenderness, bruising, scarring, numbness)? Which ones do I need to report to you? Will any of the side effects be long-term?

A:



For more information on breast health or breast cancer, please call our breast care helpline (1-877-465-6636) or visit our website. Susan G. Komen does not provide medical advice.

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