

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR

Breast Cancer Surgery

The goal of breast cancer surgery is to remove the entire tumor from the breast. There are two types of surgery to remove breast cancer: [lumpectomy](#) or [mastectomy](#).

If your treatment plan includes 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](#).

Before surgery

Q: What type of breast cancer surgery do you suggest for me? Can I have a lumpectomy plus radiation therapy? If not, why not?

A: _____

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: _____

Q: Will I need other treatments before or after surgery? If so, what and who will coordinate my care?

A: _____

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

A: _____

After surgery

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

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: _____

Q: What side effects might I have after surgery (e.g., pain, bruising, scarring, numbness) and how long will they last? Which ones do I need to report to you? When can I get back to my normal routine?

A: _____

Q: What tests will be done on my tumor? How will this help guide my treatment plan?

A: _____

Q: Will part of the tissue removed be saved? If so, where and for how long? How can it be accessed in the future?

A: _____

Q: How do you recommend I treat my scar?

A: _____

Notes:



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](https://www.komen.org). Susan G. Komen does not provide medical advice. Se habla español.

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