



## Questions to Ask Before Agreeing to Surgery<sup>1</sup>

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Carolyn Wilken<sup>2</sup>

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### General Questions

**1. What is this surgery for? Will it eliminate my problem or slow my condition?**

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**2. What other treatment options might I consider?**

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**3. What will happen if I don't have this surgery?**

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**4. What are the risks of the surgery and what are the success rates?**

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from *AARP Health Questions: How to talk to and select physicians, pharmacists, dentists & vision care specialists* Carolyn S. Wilken, Ph.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor, Family, Youth and Community Sciences, IFAS, University of Florida. . Reviewed by: Tina Lam, MD, and Mary Harrison, professor, Department of Family, Youth, and Community Sciences, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida.

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**5. Can you do the surgery on an outpatient basis and can I arrange to have appropriate care to recuperate at home instead of the hospital?**

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**6. What kind of help would I need? Who can help me make those arrangements?**

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**7. Can you recommend someone to give me a second opinion?**

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### **Financial Questions**

**1. Who can answer my questions about the costs of this surgery?**

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**2. What is the cost of the operation and follow-up care? Is it covered by my insurance**

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**3. Will Medicare or my insurance cover those costs? Who can answer my questions about costs?**

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**3. Do I need to clear this with my insurance company or Medicare?**

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