



FREE PRINTABLE FROM THE CARDIAC SURGERY PLAYBOOK

Questions to Ask Your Surgeon

Write down your questions before the visit. Put the most important ones first. Bring a family member or friend to take notes.

The operation

- ☐ What exactly will you do, and what problem will it fix?
- ☐ What are my other choices, including no surgery?
- ☐ Why is this approach best for me?

My risk

- ☐ What are the main risks for me, given my health?
- ☐ What is my estimated risk, and what is it based on?
- ☐ What is the risk if I do not have surgery?

Experience and results

- ☐ How many of these operations do you do each year?
- ☐ How do your results compare with the national benchmark?
- ☐ Does this hospital follow an ERAS® enhanced recovery pathway?

Before surgery

- ☐ Which medicines do I stop, and exactly when?
- ☐ What can I eat and drink, and until what time?
- ☐ What can I do now to get stronger?

Recovery and follow-up

- ☐ How long will I be in the hospital and in intensive care?
- ☐ When can I drive, work, lift, and resume intimacy?
- ☐ When does cardiac rehab start, and how do I join?
- ☐ Whom do I call with problems, and when is my first follow-up visit?

My other questions

More free answers at cardiacsurgeryplaybook.com · *The Cardiac Surgery Playbook* by Daniel T. Engelman, MD, Cheryl Crisafi, MSN, RN, and Armando Paez, MD, in paperback, hardcover and Kindle on Amazon.

General education, not medical advice. Follow your own care team's instructions. In an emergency, call 911.