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Questions a Patient Needs to Ask Their Surgeon

1. What is my diagnosis?
2. What is the operation you are recommending?
3. How many of these operations have you done?
4. How long is the in-hospital recovery?
5. How long is the out of hospital recovery?
6. Will I need a transitional period with rehab or home nursing?
7. How long do you expect me to need prescription pain medication?
8. How long should I take off of work?
9. What are the risks?
10. Are there alternatives to this operation?
11. Is it worthwhile to seek a second opinion? (Any good surgeon will never discourage this.)
12. Who will oversee my care while I'm in the hospital?
13. Will there be residents operating on me? (This is fine, but it is good to know beforehand rather than be surprised at the group of 20-somethings at your bedside.)
14. What do I need to look for after the operation in terms of infection and wound healing and will I need sutures or staples removed?



Dr. Christopher Roseberry is a surgeon in Exeter, NH specializing in and teaching minimally invasive abdominal surgery. He has been a physician for congressional delegations and has traveled with members of Congress and the President. He writes a blog at <http://drcroseberry.blogspot.com/> and is on twitter [@DrCRoseberry](https://twitter.com/DrCRoseberry).