

Pre-Surgery Planning

Questions to Ask Your Doctor Before Your Breast Operation

- How long will the operation take?
- How should I expect to feel after my operation?
- Will I need blood transfusions during the operation and should I bank my own blood before going to the hospital?
- What will the scar look like? Please show me where it will be.
- Will I be in pain? What will you do for my pain?
- How long will I be in the hospital?
- Will I need special care at home after the surgery?
- When can I get back to my regular routine? Will I have to take any special precautions?
- What kind of exercises should I do?
- If I decide to have breast reconstruction, can it be done as part of this operation?
- If I decide not to have reconstruction, what other choices will I have?

Printed with permission, Morra and Potts, *Choices*, Avon Books, 1994, p. 330.

I made sure that before I went into the hospital I had done all the things; . . . , I didn't... for instance want to come home and have to worry about vacuuming. So I cleaned my house, changed my sheets, put everything that I could . . . within easy reach. Dr. Blisher had explained

Caroline Shubert [Eskimo]

