Top 5 Questions to Ask Your Surgeon

1. What type of cancer do I have and how serious is it?

2. What are my surgical options, and why?

3. Am I a candidate for hidden scar nipple sparing mastectomy or hidden scar lumpectomy? Are you a Hidden Scar Certified Surgeon?

4. Is the cancer recurrence rate the same with skin sparing or nipple sparing mastectomy compared to a simple mastectomy?

5. After reconstruction, will both of my breasts look the same?
Questions about your cancer
- What type of cancer do I have?
- How big is it?
- Has it spread?

Questions about pre-operative treatment
- Do I need a 2nd opinion?
- What kind of treatment do I need?
- Should I have a breast MRI?
- Is my cancer genetic?
- Do I need to be tested for breast cancer genes?
- How quickly do I need surgery?

Questions about lumpectomy
- If I have a lumpectomy, can the cancer come back in my breast?
- Is lumpectomy as good as mastectomy?
- Am I a candidate for a hidden scar lumpectomy?
- Will I need lymph node surgery if I have a lumpectomy?
- Will I get a big swollen arm if you take out my lymph nodes?

Questions about mastectomy
- Are there different kinds of mastectomies?
- Can you save my nipple?
- Am I a candidate for skin-sparing or nipple-sparing mastectomy?
- Am I a candidate for hidden scar nipple-sparing mastectomy?
- Are you a Hidden Scar Certified Surgeon?
- Can the cancer come back after mastectomy?

Questions about post-operative treatment
- Is surgery all I need, or do I need radiation or chemotherapy?
- I’ve heard sometimes I need a 2nd operation. What’s that all about?
- Will I need plastic surgery?
- Can I have reconstruction?
- Who does the reconstruction?
- What are the different types of reconstructions?
- After the reconstruction, will both of my breasts look the same?

Questions about life after surgery
- How long will I be in the hospital?
- What do I do with my other breast? Is my other breast at risk of cancer?
- When can I go back to work?
- How often do I have to come back and be followed?
- Will I still need mammography every year?
- When people look at me will they know I’ve had a mastectomy?