

No matter which type of reconstruction you are planning to have, consider asking your surgeon these questions as you plan your reconstruction surgery. Some may not be relevant to you but can at least act as a guide.



- Am I a good candidate for breast reconstruction?
- What type of breast reconstruction is best for me?
- How many reconstruction procedures have you done?
- Which types of reconstruction are you most experienced in?
- What are the risks of breast reconstruction?
- What is the best reconstruction timing for me?
- What will my breast look like after reconstruction?
- Do you have photos of similar reconstructions that you've performed?
- What results are realistic for me?
- Will the reconstructed breast match my remaining breast in size?
- How should I prepare for surgery?
- How long will the surgery take?
- Will I have a local or general anesthetic?
- How will my reconstructed breast feel to the touch?
- Will I have any feeling in my reconstructed breast?
- How much discomfort or pain will I feel?

- How long will I be in the hospital?
- Will I need blood transfusions? If so, can I donate my own blood?
- How long is the recovery time?
- What type of wound care will I need to do at home?
- Will you insert surgical drains?
- Are there exercises I'll need to do after surgery?
- How much activity can I do at home?
- What do I do if I get swelling (lymphedema) in my arm?
- When will I be able to return to normal activities such as driving and working?
- Can you connect me with other women who have had the same surgery?
- Will reconstruction interfere with chemotherapy?
- Will reconstruction interfere with radiation therapy?
- How long will the implant last? (If you're having an implant)
- What kinds of changes to the breast can I expect over time?
- How will aging affect the reconstructed breast?
- What happens if I gain or lose weight?
- Are there any new reconstruction options that I should know about?

All questions courtesy of Breast Cancer Care – Jan 2016