

Ask the Right Questions

You are an important part of your child's healthcare team. You'll want as much information as possible to help your child. Here are some of the questions you may want to ask, along with space to write down answers. Feel free to print out this page and take it with you to your child's appointment.

Are there any alternatives to surgery?

What results do you expect? What will the surgery accomplish?

What are the possible risks and complications?

How long will the surgery take?

What type of anesthesia will my son or daughter need? Will they have an exclusively pediatric anesthesia specialist?

Will my child have to stay in the hospital and for how long?

Will my child have any pain, and what kind of medicine will you give him or her for it?

Will my child require a blood transfusion? Can a family member donate?

What will the incision look like and will I need to change dressings? Will there be scarring?

How soon can my child bathe or shower?

Will my child require antibiotics or other medications after surgery?

What postoperative care will he or she need?

Do I need to come back to the clinic for an appointment or can I talk with the nurse on the phone?

When can my child resume normal activities and/or return to school?

Does insurance typically cover this type of surgery? Is there someone in your office who can help me with insurance issues?