SecondsCount.org
Educated Patients Lead to Better Care.

Questions to Ask Your Doctor about Coronary Bypass Surgery

Use the following questions as a tool to help you talk to your physician about **coronary artery bypass graft surgery**. Print them out and take them with you to your next appointment. Take notes to help you remember your discussion when you get home.

1. Why is coronary bypass surgery the **best treatment for me**?
2. What will I need to do in the weeks, hours, and days leading up to the surgery? Are there **tests** that I will need to undergo?
3. What else can I do to **prepare for the surgery** so that I have a successful operation and recovery?
4. Will my coronary bypass surgery be performed with the use of a **heart-lung machine,** or will it be performed while my heart is beating? What length will my **chest incision** be?
5. How long will I be in the **intensive care unit (ICU)**? How long will I be in the hospital?
6. Considering my history, do you have concerns about **complications**?
7. How long until I can **return to work** or other normal daily activities?
8. Will I be referred to a **cardiac rehabilitation** program?
9. How will I feel after **recovery** is complete?
10. Will I receive a **stent**?
11. Will my **arteries re-narrow** or become blocked again? If so, in what time period should I expect this to happen?
12. What kind of care is necessary and ongoing after coronary bypass surgery? Do I have to keep taking **medications**? What kind and why?
13. Can I get help with making **lifestyle changes,** such as quitting smoking, adopting a heart-healthy diet, and exercising?