

WHAT PATIENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SURGICAL TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR PROSTATE CANCER

Program Resource Guide

Questions to Ask About Prostate Cancer Surgery

- What are the potential benefits and risks of surgery in my situation?
- Am I a candidate for minimally invasive surgery?
- Which surgical approach do you recommend, and why?
- How much experience do you have performing prostate cancer surgery?
- What side effects should I expect in the short and long term?
- How might surgery affect urinary control and sexual function?
- How long is recovery likely to take?
- Will I need additional treatment after surgery?
- What follow-up testing will I need after treatment?

Laparoscopic Prostatectomy

During a **laparoscopic prostatectomy**, the surgeon makes several small incisions in the abdomen. Long, specialized instruments and a small, high-definition camera are inserted through these openings to perform the surgery.

Robotic-Assisted Prostatectomy

Robotic-assisted prostatectomy is another minimally invasive approach. The surgeon sits at a nearby console and controls specialized robotic instruments that perform the surgical movements.

Important: The robot does not perform the surgery independently. **The surgeon controls every movement of the robotic instruments.**

Minimally Invasive Surgery Benefits

Compared with traditional open surgery, minimally invasive approaches may offer benefits for some patients, including:

- Smaller incisions.
- Less blood loss.
- Less postoperative pain.
- Shorter hospital stays.
- Faster recovery.

Factors Impacting Surgical Options

There is no single surgical approach that is right for every patient. Your doctor may consider several factors, including:

- The cancer's stage and aggressiveness.
- Overall health.
- A patient's anatomy.
- The surgeon's training and experience.

Glossary

Localized Prostate Cancer: Prostate cancer that is believed to be contained within the prostate and has not spread to distant parts of the body.

Prostate Gland: A small gland located below the bladder and in front of the rectum. It produces some of the fluid that makes up semen.

Seminal Vesicles: Small glands located behind the prostate that produce fluid that helps make up semen. They are typically removed during a radical prostatectomy.

Radical Prostatectomy: Surgery to remove the entire prostate gland and usually the seminal vesicles. It may be performed using an open or minimally invasive approach.



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