

Answers to Common Concerns About Skin Cancer Surgery

If you're worried about your upcoming skin cancer surgery, that's absolutely normal.

After all, you don't have surgery every day.

To help ease your mind, try to focus on the positive: Having surgery will remove the cancer and stop it from spreading. That's definitely a good thing!

Knowing what to expect can also help you feel less anxious and better prepared. Here are the facts behind some common concerns about skin cancer surgery.

Will I have a scar?

Truth is, you'll likely have a scar after surgery. What it'll look like depends on many things, like the type of surgery you have and the size and location of your cancer. Talk with your healthcare provider about what you can expect.

And remember: Any scarring will get better over time as your skin heals. And you can help with the healing process. Care for your wound per your healthcare provider's directions. That may include things like limiting certain activities and protecting your skin from the sun.

What about the risks of surgery?

All surgeries have some risks, like the chance for an infection and bleeding.

You may also have other risks depending on the type of surgery you have. These may include pain, numbness, or skin stretching.

Keep in mind, your provider has done lots of these surgeries and knows exactly how to keep you safe and healthy.

You can do your part, too, by following all pre- and post-surgery instructions. And if you have any questions, ask away!

What if the cancer comes back?

Sometimes, skin cancer can reoccur. It may show up again in the same place or somewhere else on your body.

That's certainly unnerving to think about. If you feel scared or worried about getting cancer again, be kind to yourself and tell your care team. They can help you cope with your emotions.

Also know that there's lots you can do to prevent the cancer from coming back.

Keep all follow-up appointments with your healthcare provider. Regularly check your skin for changes. Tell your provider right away if you notice any changes. Always wear a broad-spectrum sunscreen. And do your best to limit your time in the sun.

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Still have questions or concerns?

Your care team is here to help. Get in touch to learn more about what you can do to make sure your surgery goes smoothly.