

What questions should I ask my hand surgeon?

The purpose of this list of questions is to:

- Act as a resource in asking relevant and important questions about your hand condition.
- Assist you to make an informed decision regarding your treatment.

Notes:

VOICES

HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH CENTER
VALUE IN ORTHOPAEDICS, INNOVATION AND CHOICES

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QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR HAND SURGEON





DIAGNOSIS

- What are the possible diagnoses for my symptoms?
- What is the most likely diagnosis?
- Are there tests that can help confirm the diagnosis?
- What problems are a part of this diagnosis?
- Are there things that might make my diagnosis worse or spread to other areas?
- What caused me to get this diagnosis?
- Is my diagnosis common or uncommon?

Notes:

TREATMENT OPTIONS

- Do I need to treat my diagnosis?
- What are my treatment options?
- What are their expected benefits?
- What are their risks?
- Who can I talk to about the costs of the treatment options?
- If hand therapy is a treatment option:
 - How many visits will I need?
 - Will I need a splint or cast?
 - Will therapy help me avoid surgery?
- If surgery is a treatment option:
 - What does the surgery involve?
 - What type of anesthesia will I need for my surgery?
 - Can I go home the same day?
 - What will recovery be like?
 - How much pain will I have?
 - Will I need a splint or cast?
 - Will I need hand therapy after?
 - What restrictions will I have?
 - When can I return to work?

Notes:

OUTCOMES

- What will happen if I do nothing to treat my diagnosis?
- What are the goals or expected outcomes of each treatment option?
- How long before I feel better?
- How will my hand work after treatment?
- What can I do to improve my outcome after treatment?
- What future problems might I have because of my diagnosis?
- Could my diagnosis come back?
- Are there tests I will need in the future related to my diagnosis?

SUPPORT

- Are there services (therapy, financial assistance) available for my diagnosis?
- Are there informational materials available about my diagnosis?
- How do I reach you or your staff if I have a question or concern?

Notes:
