

Questions to ask before a hysterectomy

Tick each one as it's answered and write the answer on the line. Anything with a date or a number goes on paper before you leave.

Surgeon _____

Appointment date _____

Pre-op clinic date _____

Before you sign Ovaries, tubes, cervix, and the consent form

- ☐ Are you planning to remove my ovaries? If not, what's the plan if they look abnormal once you're in?

- ☐ Will you take my fallopian tubes while leaving the ovaries, and does that change my operation?

- ☐ Are you removing my cervix, and why?

- ☐ If I keep my ovaries, what do I watch for afterwards?

- ☐ Can I see the consent form before the day?

- ☐ Where is my preference about my ovaries written down?

- ☐ If you find something unexpected, what have I agreed to, and what haven't I?

- ☐ If keyhole has to become open surgery, what does that look like, and where is that on the form?

- ☐ If something we agreed to remove looks healthy once you're in, do you still remove it, and where does it say so?

- ☐ Can I have a copy of the form as signed?

About the operation

Route, closure, and who's in the room

- ☐ Why this route for me?

- ☐ Given my history, how likely is it that mine becomes an open operation?

- ☐ How many of these do you do a year?

- ☐ Will you be using a morcellator, and will it be contained? (Keyhole or robotic surgery for fibroids only.)

- ☐ How do you close the top of the vagina, and do those stitches come out?

- ☐ Glue, stitches or staples on the skin, and does anything need taking out?

- ☐ Will I have a catheter, how long for, and will I be awake when it goes in?

- ☐ Will I have a vaginal pack?

- ☐ Who will be in the operating room, and who does what?

- ☐ Will trainees be doing any part of the surgery?

- ☐ Will any examination be done under anaesthesia for teaching, and do you need my written consent for that?

Medicines, the clinic and the day What stops, who you'll meet, and going home

- ☐ Here is everything I take, prescription, over the counter and supplements. Which stop, and when?

- ☐ I'm on the pill or oral HRT. Does that change anything?

- ☐ I'm on a weight-loss injection. Does that change anything?

- ☐ Which of my own medicines do I take on the morning, and do you want the bottles or a list?

- ☐ When do I meet the anaesthetist, and what do they need from me?

- ☐ Am I planned as a day case? What would keep me in?

- ☐ If I stay the night, what's the plan for my regular medicines?

- ☐ What do you need from my ride home?

- ☐ Does this hospital run an enhanced-recovery pathway for this operation?

- ☐ What will I be sent home with for pain, and who writes it?

Before you leave, in writing Dates and limits, on paper

☐ **What exactly can't I do, and until what date?**

Driving

Lifting, and how much

Stairs

My job

Housework

Sex

Swimming and baths

Travel

Exercise

Other

☐ **When is it medically safe to drive, when can I do an emergency stop, and does my insurer want anything in writing?**

☐ **Who do I see about my pelvic floor, and what happens after I go home?**

☐ **When do I see you again, and how do I reach you before then?**

☐ **How do I get my operative report and my pathology report?**

My own questions Anything specific to you that isn't covered above

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Last question: "Is there anything most people ask that I haven't?"