Questions to Ask Surgeon About Mastectomy Surgery

1. How many times have you performed a mastectomy?

2. What are the risks of a mastectomy?

3. Is my cancer in an area that may make it possible to miss during surgery? How do we mitigate those risks if it is? Is there a procedure to ensure that the cancer is gone after surgery?

4. If I choose to have breast reconstruction, when should it be done and what are my choices? Will you refer me to a reconstructive surgeon?

5. If I have immediate breast reconstruction, how will my breast(s) look following surgery?

6. What are the pros and cons of having reconstruction surgery during the same surgery?
7. If I choose not to have immediate reconstruction, how will my chest look after surgery?

8. What are the pros and cons of waiting to have reconstructive surgery at a later date?

9. If I need radiation, how will that affect the timing of reconstruction and the look of my breasts?

10. How many drains will I have, and can you explain how they work? How long will they need to stay in?

11. Will I need a nurse at home after surgery?

12. I’ve heard that there are tumor boards or conferences. Will my case be discussed, and can you inform me if there is a consensus?