

Patient information from BMJ

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Gallstones: questions to ask your doctor

If you've been told that you have gallstones or you are thinking about having gallbladder surgery you may want to ask your doctor these questions.

Questions about gallstones

- What are gallstones? Who gets them?
- Are you sure that gallstones are causing my symptoms?
- What are the chances that my symptoms will get better without treatment?
- Is there anything I can do to help prevent having another attack?
- What can help with gallstone pain?
- Can gallstones cause other complications? What should I do if that happens?

Questions about surgery

If you are thinking about having surgery to take out your gallbladder you should talk with your doctor and your surgeon to find out more. Here are some questions you might want to ask.

- Will taking out my gallbladder make my symptoms go away?
- Are there any alternatives to having my gallbladder removed?
- What kind of surgery will I have?
- How long will I have to wait for the surgery?
- What are the risks involved?
- How long will I need to stay in hospital?
- How much time does it take to recover from the surgery?
- Is there anything I should do, or avoid while I'm waiting for surgery?
- What can I expect after having the surgery?

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