



- ◆ Experience has shown that patients and their families are the number one reason that errors get caught when they do occur.

So, if you are facing surgery and you get upset that everyone is asking you the same questions prior to the surgery, please remember, it is a safety check. When they ask, you know they want to ensure that you receive a safe experience in the operating room.

For more information and patient safety tips to prevent wrong-site surgery go to [www.patientsafetyauthority.org](http://www.patientsafetyauthority.org) and click on "Tips for Consumers."



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HOW CAN YOU PREVENT

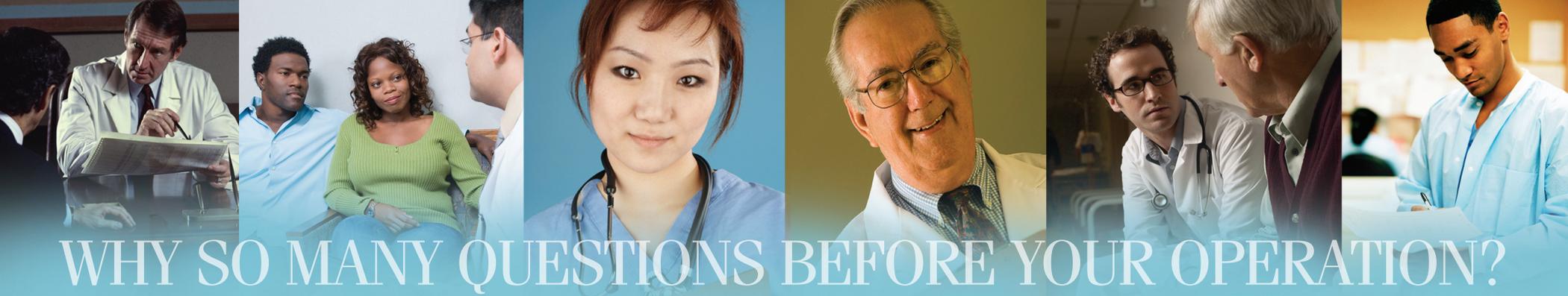


WRONG-SITE SURGERY?

Ask and Answer  
Many Questions



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# WHY SO MANY QUESTIONS BEFORE YOUR OPERATION?

**W**hen your surgeon talked to you about the need for an operation, the surgeon probably reminded you of the risks of surgery, such as bleeding or infection. These risks are possible problems that the surgeon cannot completely anticipate and control because everyone's body and reasons for needing surgery are unique to them.

Other problems can be controlled by your healthcare provider.

## For Example:

In a busy operating room, operations have been performed on the wrong patient or wrong side or wrong body part. The events don't happen often, but they do occur and everyone on your healthcare team wants to ensure wrong-site surgeries never happen.

Your surgeon, anesthesiologist, surgical nurse and other healthcare providers know that there are certain steps that are important to take to make sure that you receive proper care. You should expect these steps to be taken prior to your operation.

- ◆ Each person you meet should ask you your name and ask for another identifying piece of information, such as your date of birth, since different people can have the same name.

- ◆ All of your healthcare providers should check your identification bracelet.
- ◆ All of your healthcare providers should ask what kind of surgery you are having and ask you about the exact location, if the operation can be done at more than one site. (For example: which eye, arm or leg)
- ◆ When they ask the questions, they should know the answers to expect based on the operating schedule, the consent form you signed and the surgeon's record of your examination.
- ◆ They should ask you the questions to make sure that the information you provide matches the information written on their documents. If it does not, they know that they need to double check to make sure that everyone, especially you, is in agreement before you are taken into the operating room.
- ◆ If you are ever concerned that one of your healthcare providers does not seem to know exactly what is being done to you, please SPEAK UP™!



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