



Questions you should ask your surgeon prior to having an amputation

Having an amputation and/or re-amputation is a life changing event. It is important that you have your questions answered prior to surgery so that you know what to expect. Speaking to your surgeon may also help to reduce any fear or concerns you may be feeling.

This checklist has been created to help to guide you. You may have other questions that you will want to ask. It's a good idea to make some notes when speaking to your surgeon or take a friend along to the appointment with you, this will help you to remember the information your surgeon has provided you with.

Is this surgery the best option for me and what does it involve?

- Is there another treatment option other than amputation?
- Do you think that this amputation will lead to the best outcome for me?
- What are the risks and possible problems of having this surgery?
- How long will the surgery take?



TIP - Remember, if you are unsure of anything make sure you seek additional information.

Will I have any pain after this surgery?

- If I do feel any pain will it be the similar to the pain that I am currently feeling?
- Is there any other pain I might experience?
- I have heard about phantom pain, does everyone experience this pain?
- If I do experience phantom pain, how will it be managed?

Can you tell me about recovery after surgery?

- How long could my recovery process take?
- What is involved in the recovery process?
- How long will it take before I can get up and move around?
- What can I do to assist my recovery?

How will this amputation affect my mobility?

- Will I need to be fitted with a prosthesis to walk and if so, how long does it take?
- Will I need to be fitted with special shoes and who will help me with this?

What will my quality of life be like after amputation?

- Will I be able to return to work, care for my family or participate in recreation and leisure activities?

What supports are available to me before the surgery?

- Can I meet with a prosthetist or other therapist?
- Can I speak to another amputee before the surgery?

Limbs 4 Life can put you in contact with one of our Peer Support Volunteers. Our Volunteers are people who have had an amputation and adapted to life following surgery.