

We suggest asking your surgeon:

- Is a hip or knee replacement completely necessary? What are the alternatives?
- What is the make and model of the device the doctor plans to use? Why is the doctor choosing this device for me?
- Will I be able to maintain my current activity level?
- What is the success/complication rate of the device?
- Will a representative from the medical device manufacturer be present during your operation and if so, what is their role?
- Has the device been recalled or the subject of an FDA warning? Don't feel silly asking this question -- recalled devices can continue to be implanted in people.
- What materials are used to make the device? You may have an allergy to materials used.
- How many times has the doctor performed the surgery with this particular device?
- Does the doctor have a financial interest in the device company?
- What are the infection rates at the hospital? While infection rates for hip and knee replacements are not nationally collected, you can find information about related types of infections at your hospital at: <http://www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov/?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1> . Also, several states publish reports on hip and knee infections, you can find links to these reports at <http://safepatientproject.org/tags/state-disclosure-reports> .
- Are there any warranties or guarantees that the surgeon is offering on the surgery and/or device?
- What are all of the long-term complications from particulate wear debris, and in particular, the long-term implications from exposure to metal ions from aging and degrading medical devices?
- Ask for documentation about the device implanted, including the manufacturer and model name, and any written information available about your device. Keep this information with your personal medical records.