Questions to Ask...

after breast surgery

Answers to these questions will help you play an active role in your recovery.

- 1. Are there special exercises I should be doing? What type do you recommend? How long should I continue them?
- 2. Are there any precautions I should take? For example, if lymph nodes were removed, should I avoid getting shots, shaving, having my blood pressure taken, blood drawn or having cuticles cut during manicures on the affected arm?
- 3. When will I be able to get back to my normal routine (such as driving, returning to work, etc.)?
- 4. What problems, specifically, should I report to you?
- 5. How can I get a copy of the hospital pathology report of my surgery and lymph node analysis for my records?
- 6. What is lymphedema? What precautions do I take to avoid it?
- 7. Where can I find a breast cancer support group?

Answers to these questions below will help you prepare for follow-up visits to the doctor.

- 1. If additional therapy is being considered, can you refer me to a medical oncologist?
- 2. When the additional therapy is completed, who will be responsible for my follow-up care? How often should I return for an exam? For lab tests or x-rays?
- 3. What tests will be done at these times?
- 4. What will the tests tell us?
- 5. What kind of physician should I see for my long-term follow-up care?