

Question List for xx Appointment with Dr. Smith

Prepared by: Student

PAST

1. I had open heart surgery, first to repair and then to replace my mitral valve. I understand procedures associated with surgery and recovery. **Did this earlier procedure on my mitral valve lead to a weaker tricuspid valve?**
2. Now I am going in for a surgery on the tricuspid valve, which is difficult to operate on.
3. My cardiologist has me on a diuretic that makes my stomach upset/sore. It seems to be working by flushing out liquids, but **is there a different diuretic I can try to make my stomach less upset?**
4. I used to be quite active but retired because of this news. I want to be able to walk down the street without breathing so heavy.

PRESENT

1. **I need to know if I am a good candidate for laparoscopic surgery, especially given that I'm 79.**
2. I would like to know more specifics about Dr. Smith's experience: **how long and how often has he done this laparoscopic procedure?** Are there any new technologies I should be aware of? **How successful is this procedure, for patients of my age?**
3. **I've heard that some hospitals have done more surgeries like this than MGH so should I go to BWH or a Cleveland Clinic instead?** Are BWH and MGH in a connected hospital system and is Dr. Smith obligated to make me stay with MGH?
4. I used to be really active, but now I am afraid to exercise because it might damage something.

FUTURE

1. After the surgery how will my lifestyle and ability to exercise change?
2. My wife works in pharma and can provide care at home after the surgery. She is also more familiar with medical terms and would like to know as much as possible.
 - a. My wife is also more nervous about this operation, because it is less common.
3. Will an operation on the tricuspid valve have consequences for more valves, such as the atrial? **If strengthening one valve keeps making another one weaker, is it possible to have a complete heart transplant?**
 - a. Would I be an eligible candidate for a heart transplant or is that for younger people?