

Helpful Questions To Ask Your Orthopedic Surgeon Before Surgery

- What is the degree of curvature both thoracic and lumbar?
- Is the lumbar curve compensatory?
- What discs are to be fused?
- Length of the surgery?
- Should you bank blood for your child?
- Are there non-surgical options?
- What is the natural course of her condition if it is not surgically addressed?
- If your child already had their growth spurt would this be an issue?
- What would you recommend if this were your family member?
- What are the long term consequences of the spinal fusion?(E.g. will the operation ever need to be re-done? If it is a fusion, will it lead to degeneration at other levels of the spine?)
- How many times have you performed this spinal fusion procedure?
- What are the risks?
- What is your success rate?
- Is the hospital you are operating in specialized in caring for children with spinal fusion?
- How can I reach you with any questions I might have before surgery?

Helpful Questions: What To Expect After Surgery

- What kind of pain can I expect my child will be in after surgery?
- For how long?
- How long is the hospital stay?
- Can parents stay in the room with their child?
- How do you manage the pain in the hospital?
- Does the hospital have tours beforehand? Do you schedule the tour?
- How can I reach you with questions I might have while in the hospital?
- What are the limitations after surgery?
- How long can my child expect to be out of school?
- What kind of help will they need when they return home from surgery?
- When can they resume normal activities?
- How soon will we see you for a follow up appointment after the surgery?
- Will my child get a medical I.D. card showing the fusion rods?