Questions to ask about surgery

1. Which type of surgery do you recommend? How often do you perform this type of surgery?

2. Is laparoscopic or robotic surgery an option? Am I at risk for chronic kidney disease?

3. How much of my tumor will be removed? How much of my kidney will be removed?

4. What other organs or tissues might be removed during surgery? What will this mean in terms of my survival and recovery?

5. How will some of my other medical issues potentially affect my surgery or my risk of complications? Can I do anything before surgery to decrease these risks?

6. Will I have or need more than one surgery?

7. Will the incision be on my front, side, or back?

8. Does my cancer involve any veins or arteries? How might this affect surgery?

9. How long will it take me to recover from surgery?

10. How much pain will I be in? What will be done to manage my pain?

11. What is the chance that this surgery will shorten my life?

12. What other side effects can I expect from surgery? What complications can occur from this surgery?

13. What treatment will I have before, during, or after surgery? What will this treatment do?