

REVISION

Interviewing Your Surgeon

Doing a little extra work upfront will help ensure you get the best possible outcome.

Communicate your goals clearly. Be specific. For example: you want a smooth, flat contour with your dog ears completely removed. You'd like your chest to appear flat when you're in an upright position. Show your surgeon photos of what you want to look like. You can find lots of these photos in Flat Closure NOW's photo gallery.

Evaluate the surgeon's response. Do they accept and respect your decision? Their response should be one of care and concern. And they should be able to explain how they will work to ensure you get an acceptable flat result.

If you detect hesitation, pushback about reconstruction, body shaming language, or anything that makes you feel uncomfortable, find a different surgeon.

Ask specific questions about technique - how they will achieve a flat contour in your specific case? (see the section below)

Listen to your intuition! If you feel uncertain about your surgeon's competence or their commitment to producing an acceptable flat result, seek a second opinion.

Questions to Ask Your Revision Surgeon

- Have they performed revision surgery for previous mastectomy patients who went flat? Ask to see photos of their work.
- Will they be able to produce the result you want in one surgery? How likely is it that you will face additional surgery?

- How will they address any special challenges in your case? For example, dog ears, puckering of the scar, excess tissue, concavity, etc.
- Will they extend the incisions further on the lateral chest (under your arms) or use additional incisions in order to achieve a flat contour? Will this produce a different scar pattern?
- How will they ensure the closure is tight enough to present a flat contour when you are upright, not just when lying down?
- What can you expect in terms of recovery? For example, what is the likelihood of drains and what can you anticipate in terms of postoperative activity restrictions?