



# The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

## Questions to Ask the Doctor Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG)

- What type of CABG heart surgery will I have? Why is this type being done instead of another?
- What type of anesthesia will I be given?
- How many of these procedures have you done?
- What complications might I expect, and what signs should I watch for?
- What will my scar look like?
- Are there any lifestyle changes that I can make now?
- How long will I be in the hospital?
- What activities will I be able to do upon returning home? Will I need help around the home?
- If I am not able to manage myself at home, what options are available for transitional care?
- When can I return to work?
- Who should I call if I experience any problems after returning home?
- Will I have to change my diet and/or lifestyle after surgery?
- Will I have to take any long-term medications?
- What is my chance of recurrence after surgery? Is there any way to lower my chance of having a recurrence?
- How often will I be monitored after surgery?
- What can I expect over the long run—in a year or 5 years after the surgery?
- How likely is it that I will need additional treatment later?