

Primary Care Issues: Can I Have Elective Surgery?
When Should I See a PH Specialist?

Considering surgery or procedure when you have pulmonary hypertension can be a challenging task. It takes a team approach with communication between involved caregivers to address the issues specific to each patient and the procedure:

Points to consider

- Type of surgery or procedure
 - Usually assessed as low, moderate or high risk procedures
- Type and length of anesthesia
 - General anesthesia versus others
- Loss of blood anticipated?
- Any special instructions regarding current medications?
 - Blood thinners (Coumadin, Plavix, Asiprin)
 - Pulmonary hypertension medications
- Recovery period after procedure
- Expected rehabilitation period afterwards?

Issues to discuss with your primary care physician

- What tests do I need?
 - Blood tests
 - ECG
 - Echocardiogram
 - Stress test?
 - Lung function test/chest XRay
- Other medical issues to be addressed
 - Diabetes
 - Kidney dysfunction
 - Liver problems
 - Hypertension
 - Prior heart attack / coronary artery disease

- Routine Health Maintenance
 - Mammograms
 - Colonoscopy
 - Prostate Evaluations
 - Vaccinations

Specific consideration with PH

- Severity of PH
- Need further evaluations?
 - Echocardiogram
 - Right heart catheterization
- What medications are you on for your PH?
 - Does the hospital where the procedure is scheduled know about your medication?
 - Any change in doses needed?