Questions to ask your surgeon

Here are some questions to ask your surgeon before your surgery:

- Where exactly is my cancer located?
- Can you describe to me what will be happening during the procedure?
- What are you planning to remove? The colon, rectum, anus or lymph nodes?
- Do I need any treatment before surgery, such as chemotherapy or radiation?
- Is this the standard type of surgery for my condition?
- What type of surgery will I have (open or laparoscopic)?
- What will my scar look like?
- How many times have you performed this type of operation successfully?
- What do I need to do to prepare for surgery?
- How long will I stay in the hospital?
- Will I have an ostomy? If so, which kind? Will it be permanent or temporary?
- What side effects might I experience after this surgery?
- What will I need to do to care for my incision?
- What will recovery look like?
- Will I experience any permanent physical changes?
- What can I expect in terms of bowel function after surgery?
- When can I resume my daily activities?
- When can I go back to work?
- Will I need chemo after surgery? If so, how long after surgery will I start?
- Will I need to follow a special diet after surgery?
- When can I start exercising again?
- How often will I follow up with you after the surgery has finished?