

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING AN OFFICE VISIT?



You will have made an appointment with Ms. Susan Ricker, Dr. Goldfarb's office manager. She will greet you and standard patient intake information will be documented.

- **-Dr. Goldfarb will conduct a history and physical examination relevant to the visit. It is important to bring a list of medications as well as any radiology reports and studies.**
- **Your treatment plan will be discussed in detail including the indications, alternatives, nature of the surgery and anesthesia, risks, possible complications, disability, and post-operative care. The exact time and location of surgery will be proposed and that will be confirmed again before surgery.**
- The pre-operative discussion sometimes requires that a patient have tests that are reported to the patient's medical doctor. The medical doctor completes a **multipage form that delineates the patient's risk stratification.** In some patients with complicated medical situations, "less is more," and a conservative approach is always preferred. The most current patient care pathways are respected and, for example, sometimes pre-operative chemotherapy is instituted. Dr. Goldfarb has had long time associations with oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists and genetic counselors, only one block away at Monmouth Medical Center. All test results are easily available online for all to review. His close associations with subspecialists who have helped manage hundreds of his patients, allow for rapid, doctor to doctor appointment and consultation. **Dr. Goldfarb avoids treatment delays and anticipates any issues well in advance.**
- **Dr. Goldfarb navigates the roadmap of care** and consultations. There is a thorough discussion with all patients about alternatives, risk and complications. Part of the navigation requirement is coordinating any tests and also the skill set of a plastic and reconstructive surgeon when simultaneous breast reconstruction is necessary. Here is where experience and efficiency is important to minimize operating time but complete a meticulous operation. Dr. Goldfarb has never transfused blood after breast cancer surgery.
- **Meticulous intra-operative technique is essential to preventing infection.**(elephant article here) Careful and gentle dissection and control of any bleeding also prevents swelling and pain.
- **You will be contacted the day after surgery if you have had an outpatient procedure.** Dr. Goldfarb will be available to speak to you during that call. A post-operative appointment will be confirmed.
- With regards to cancer patients, **all test results are copied and given to the patient who usually maintains a diary** book which also includes any questions during the course of treatment. Post-operative support, and a consensus prognosis is generated.