

# SURGICARE OF MOBILE

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## Patient Tips for Surgical Site Validation

1. You and your surgeon should agree on exactly what will be done during the operation.
2. Ask to have the surgical site marked with a permanent marker and to be involved in marking the site. This means that the site cannot be easily overlooked or confused (for example, surgery on the right knee instead of the left knee).
3. Ask questions. You should speak up if you have concerns. It's okay to ask questions and expect answers that you understand.
4. Think of yourself as an active participant in the safety and quality of your health care. Studies show that patients who are actively involved in making decisions about their care are more likely to get better faster.
5. Insist that your surgery be done at an accredited facility. Accreditation is considered the "gold standard," meaning that the hospital or surgery center has undergone a rigorous on-site evaluation and is committed to national quality and safety standards.

(Excerpt from the Joint Commission Website: [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org)  
[http://www.jointcommission.org/GeneralPublic/Speak+Up/gp\\_speakup\\_bro.htm](http://www.jointcommission.org/GeneralPublic/Speak+Up/gp_speakup_bro.htm))