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The following slides were presented during the educational portion of IFFGD's 2020 Virtual Advocacy Event. To view this presentation and the all videos available during this program, please visit [https://bit.ly/Adv\\_Edu](https://bit.ly/Adv_Edu).

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# Making ~~Your~~<sup>A</sup> Surgeon a Part of Your Healthcare Team

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## Groups that may not understand you.

- Family
- Friends
- Employers/co-workers
- The entire medical profession.



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## How you might be involved with a surgeon

- You may never need one
- “Surgeon du jour”
- Referral from GI caregiver
  - May or may not have specific experience
- Dedicated multidisciplinary team

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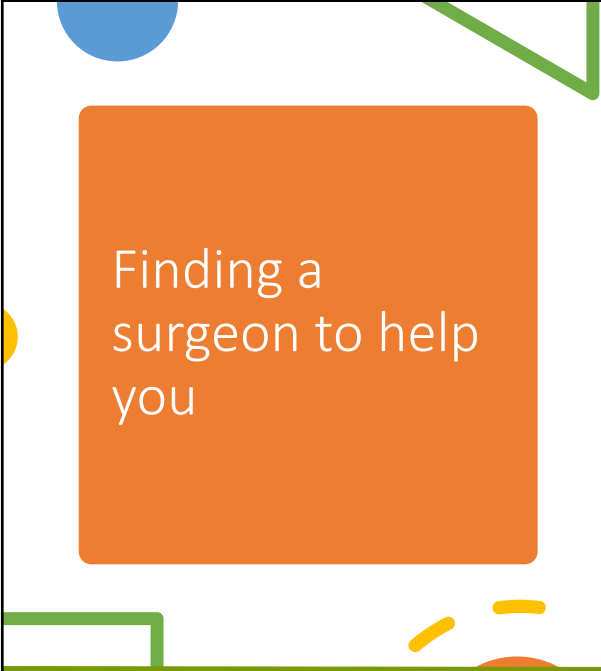
## About surgeons. . .

- Surgeons like things they understand
- Surgeons don't like things they don't understand
- They will apply what they know to your situation
- They have little training in functional disorders

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## Finding a surgeon to help you

- Can be very tough
- Experience is hard to find
- Ask your main GI provider
  - Also ask "why" they recommend that person
- Major intestinal failure centers
- Advocacy groups
- Social media
- Clinicaltrials.gov

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## Prepare in advance

- Notes from previous operations sent in advance of appointment (or bring with)
- Know your own anatomy
- Questions written down

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## You should feel

- **Comfortable**
- That you were **heard**
- That you **understand** what is going to happen
- **How the surgeon fits** in the context of your care team

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## Some don'ts

- Don't tell them every previous surgeon was an idiot
- Don't insist on surgery
- Don't be unrealistic in expectations
- Don't ask for pain meds at your first visit

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- Surgery is intimate
- Surgery can be dangerous
- Surgery is a journey
- YOU are your best advocate

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Further questions:

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