

# MALS Surgeon Consult Questions

*You need to ask your doctor to tell you what MALS is. This will give you a good indication of whether or not the doctor really has much experience with MALS.*

- What do you know about MALS?
- What you you think causes the pain of MALS?
- Do you believe that the nerves are part of the issue?
- Do you do a celiac ganglion block for diagnostic purposes? Why or why not?
- (If he does the block) Which medications will you be using in the block? Would you be using steroids as well?
- Will the surgery will be open, laparoscopic or robotic?
- During surgery, how do you address the nerves? Do you remove the nerves or just cut through and cauterize them? (Especially if he is using a celiac ganglion block for diagnostic purposes.)
- How does he deal with the compression of the MALS: is the median arcuate ligament just snipped open, or do you trim it back?
- Do you do a celiac artery bypass? Why or why not?
- Do you place a stent in the artery? Why or why not?
- How many MALS patients have you treated? How many surgeries have you done for MALS?
- What have your outcomes been? What is your success rate as far as symptom reduction? How long do you follow your patients after surgery? How many of your patients have had revisions?
- When can I expect my pain/symptoms to be gone?
- Do you know how your patients handle recovery? What does recovery from your surgery entail?
- Who will deal with the recovery pain issues? Who will handle any needed pain medications?