



Surgery with Dr. Johnson at Eastern Massachusetts Surgery Center **What to Expect**

How do you decide where you'll operate on a patient?



I operate at multiple locations in the greater Boston area, and I choose the location based on patient factors.

For patients with more complex health profiles, such as cardiac conditions, it makes sense to operate in a hospital since the patient might require a higher level of support or intervention and/or they might be at greater risk for more serious surgical complications.

Urogynecology is very much a quality of life specialty, however. Many of my patients have minimal to no other medical conditions. As such, these patients are excellent candidates for treatment at an ambulatory surgical center.

What is an ambulatory surgery center?



The Ambulatory Surgery Center Association (ASCA) describes them as “modern health care facilities focused on providing same-day surgical care, including diagnostic and preventive procedures.”

The beauty of ASCs is that they are extremely cost effective, efficient, and safe.



Cost effective: Because they are only doing same-day surgeries, they save money—for patients, insurance companies, and employers.



Efficient: The efficiency comes from the model itself: these centers are designed strictly for same-day surgical care. So a patient won't get “bumped” due to emergencies, like a car accident victim coming in or because a transplant needs to happen.



Safe: ASCs are tightly regulated by the federal government, and they typically have lower infection rates than hospitals.

More and more cases are being directed towards ambulatory surgery centers because of their efficiency and lower cost, and that's regardless of specialty.

Q Which ambulatory surgery center do you typically use?



The surgery center that I operate out of is called Eastern Massachusetts Surgery Center. It's in Norwood, so it's approximately 10 minutes away from my office in Dedham.



Eastern Massachusetts Surgery Center
100 Morse Street
Norwood, MA 02062

Q What's the process like for your patients when they use Eastern Massachusetts Surgery Center?



Here's what patients can expect:

- ✓ The patient completes a pre-surgery questionnaire either online or over the phone.
- ✓ The patient should contact the number on the back of their insurance card to understand what their co-pay is and their maximum out-of-pocket expense.
- ✓ The day before a patient's surgery, the ambulatory surgery center confirms the time with the patient.
- ✓ On the day of the surgery, the patient arrives about 1 hour prior to their surgery/procedure.
- ✓ The patient is responsible for paying their co-pay during check-in.
- ✓ The patient is seen by a nurse.
- ✓ The patient is seen by an anesthesia provider, which is always supervised by a physician.
- ✓ I perform the procedure.
- ✓ The patient recovers there, at the ambulatory surgery center. The patient is typically observed for 45+ minutes in recovery to make sure they're meeting all necessary post-op milestones.
- ✓ The patient goes home the same day and will need a ride home.
- ✓ The ambulatory surgery center bills the patient's insurance, just as a hospital would.