

Spinecare Introduction

Specialists In Spinecare

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The Spinecare Team

The term spine physician refers to a physician who specializes in the spine. Since treatment of the spine is more than just surgical intervention, multidisciplinary teams may include neurosurgeons, orthopedic surgeons, physiatrists, osteopathic physicians, chiropractic physicians and neurologists.

Other physicians who may have specialized experience in spine care or spine disorder diagnosis include the rheumatologist, radiologist and anesthesiologist. The spine care team may include ancillary supportive staff, including the physician assistant, chiropractic assistant, physical therapist, massage therapist and psychologist.

Anesthesiologist

Anesthesiologists are physicians who specialize in the evaluation and treatment of chronic pain. Their treatment approach usually includes the use of a variety of medications and the use of injections when necessary. Anesthesiologists are also trained to implement spinal cord stimulators and pharmaceutical pumps.

Endocrinologist

The endocrinologist is a physician who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of hormonal disorders in the body. The endocrinologist may be called upon to evaluate and treat a patient who has diabetes, osteoporosis or thyroid disease. There are a number of hormonal disorders that influence bone growth and remodeling. Uncontrolled diabetes is associated with and

(Chiropractor) Chiropractic Physician

Chiropractic is a branch of the healing arts that is concerned with human health and disease processes. Doctors of chiropractic give special attention to the physiological and biochemical aspects of health and disease. Chiropractic care does not include pharmaceuticals or invasive surgery. Chiropractors are physicians who have received extensive training in general healthcare with an emphasis placed upon neurology and orthopedics. Chiropractic care has become a mainstream approach in the field of non-operative neuro-musculoskeletal care. Chiropractic physicians are well-trained to evaluate and enhance human physical performance and have firm grounding in the sciences of biomechanics, neurology, non-surgical orthopedics and kinesiology. The role of chiropractic spine care was given a significant endorsement when the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ; formerly the AHCPR) recommended chiropractic care for back pain for less than three months duration.

Chiropractic physicians often work with neurosurgeons, many of which also emphasize spine care in their practices. Chiropractic physicians may employ or refer to physical therapists to manage and implement the rehabilitative spine care. Spine surgeons are working closer with non-operative spine specialists, such as chiropractic physicians, to implement physical medicine and a rehabilitative approach. Tens of millions of Americans receive chiropractic services each year and this number is rapidly growing. In 1992 a policy statement published by the American Medical Association permits medical physicians to work with chiropractic physicians when they believe that chiropractic offers reasonable therapeutic options. Chiropractic physicians can pursue post-doctoral training and residency programs in fields such as neurology, orthopedics, sports medicine, radiology and clinical nutrition.

Neurologist

Neurologists are experts in the evaluation and/or treatment of disorders of the central and peripheral nervous system. They are commonly called upon to evaluate and/or treat conditions such as epilepsy, sleep disorders, brain disorders, stroke, chronic pain, headache and neurological consequences of spinal disorders. The neurologist received extensive training in diagnosing and treating problems related to the nervous system. The neurologist may be an osteopathic physician (D.O.), medical physician (M.D.) or chiropractic physician (D.C.). Primary care physicians often refer patients to the neurologist for further evaluation of persistent and/or progressive numbness, tingling or weakness, as well as those individuals who have cognitive impairment or a movement disorder. The neurologist may perform diagnostic tests to further evaluate the cause of back pain and related neurological complaints.

Neurosurgeon

A neurosurgeon is a doctor who specializes in surgery of the brain, spine and other parts of the nervous system. They can perform a variety of spinal operations and procedures. A neurosurgeon is a doctor who specializes in the surgical treatment of diseases of the nervous system. The nervous system is comprised of the brain, spinal cord, nerve roots, and the peripheral nerves. The neurosurgeon is experienced and skilled in both pharmaceutical and surgical approaches to spinal disorders. A neurosurgeon may be a doctor of osteopathy (DO) or a medical physician (MD).

Oncologist

Oncologists are physicians who specialize in the evaluation and treatment of cancer. An oncologist usually receives the patient from another spine specialist after a primary tumor or cancer metastasis is detected in the spine.

Osteopathic Physician

The doctor of osteopathy (DO) receives training paralleling that of a medical physician, but they are also exposed to physical medicine approaches such as manipulation similar to that of a chiropractic physician. Osteopaths are licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches like a medical physician and can therefore prescribe drugs and perform operative surgery. The osteopathic

physician is trained to perform hands-on manipulative treatment for disorders of the musculoskeletal system. Doctors of osteopathy specialize in different fields, just as medical physicians do such as; orthopedics, neurosurgery or rheumatology. Not all osteopathic physicians choose to manipulate the spine during the course of patient care.