



Neurological Surgery  
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### **Why am I seeing a Neurosurgeon?**

Neurosurgery is the specialty that deals with conditions of the brain, spinal cord, and nerves that might be helped with surgery. Your doctor has asked the Neurosurgeon to determine whether your condition may benefit from surgery.

### **How will I know if I need surgery?**

To know if surgery might help, you must first be evaluated. An initial evaluation consists of a history and physical examination. After the history and physical examination, the Neurosurgeon will decide if any tests are necessary. Some tests may have already been done. Other tests may need to be done. When the evaluation is complete, the Neurosurgeon will be able to tell you if surgery might be helpful.

### **What are the chances that I will need surgery?**

Most patients do not need surgery. This is good news for you. The other good news is that the Neurosurgeon will not consider surgery unless there is a good chance that surgery will be helpful to you.

### **What if I do not need surgery?**

If you do not need surgery, the Neurosurgeon will send you to the best type of doctor for your condition. You may be sent to another specialist, or you may be sent to your regular doctor, or you may be sent to both.

### **What if I do not want surgery?**

Some people do not want surgery no matter what an evaluation might show. In this case, you may not even want to see the Neurosurgeon because the evaluation process is expensive and time consuming. Some people want an evaluation to see if surgery will help them, but they may choose not to have surgery. Each individual case is different, so don't worry. The decision to have surgery or not to have surgery is one that is made by you with in-put from your family, from your friends, and from the Neurosurgeon.

### **Can the Neurosurgeon treat me if I do not need surgery, or if I do not want surgery?**

The answer to this question is mostly "No". The specialty of Neurosurgery is about surgery and the Neurosurgeon must be devoted to the surgical aspect of patient care. If you do not need surgery, or choose to not have surgery, the Neurosurgeon will help you see the best type of doctor for your condition.

I have read and understand the above.

Patient Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_