Neurosurgery

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What is a Neurosurgeon?

- A neurosurgeon is a doctor that specializes in the prevention, diagnosis, surgical treatment, and rehabilitation of the nervous system.
- They focus on the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves, and extra-cranial cerebrovascular system.

What do they do?

- Neurosurgeons work on preventing, diagnosing, and providing treatment for diseases or disorders that affect the nervous system.
- They work mostly in hospitals because they must perform dangerous surgeries.
- Neurosurgery is a therapeutic service.
Why we Picked Neurosurgery

- It's an interesting and complicated career path that not many people know a lot about.
- The brain is a mysterious and special part of the human body that is so unexplored.
- It controls every aspect of our lives and is completely different for every person. It adapts and grows with us everyday.
Job Responsibilities

- Typical work hours are from 6am to whenever they are done doing surgeries, sometimes it's around 9pm, sometimes it's 12am.
- Neurosurgeons perform surgery to remove tumors, relieve chronic pain and treat wounds, vascular disorders and diseases such as Parkinson's and epilepsy. Neurosurgeons oversee and coordinate large teams of surgeons and nurses too.
- Characteristics: Attention to detail, stress management, compassion and empathy, problem solving, and ability to retain information
- Most neurosurgeons only see the patients for a consultation and then during their actual surgery
Required Education

- 4 years of undergrad
- 4 years of medical school
- 7 years of residency
- Neurosurgeons may then pursue additional training in the form of a fellowship, after residency as a senior resident
Licenses and Certifications

- Licensure of neurosurgeons is required in all of the states in the country in order for one to practice neurosurgery. To become licensed, after graduating from medical school, you must complete a residency and then take standard examinations. The exam that all surgeons in physicians have to take in the nation is the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination.
- Board certification in neurological surgery is offered by the American Board of Neurological Surgery
- After getting certified and starting work, all neurosurgeons must continue their education just like all other healthcare employed individuals.
Employment Statistics

- The starting salary of a Neurosurgeon is $395,000. However, the average salary after about 6 years of practice is $609,639.
- The ratio of Neurosurgeons to American citizens is 1 neurosurgeon to every 81,000 people.
- There are about 485 Neurosurgeons in California.
- California has the most Neurosurgeons in the US.
- Only about 10% of Neurosurgeons are female.
- 90% are male
Career Reflection

Con’s:

1. It’s the most difficult and easy to make a deadly mistake surgical procedure

2. You will encounter devastating cases which you will not be able to perform surgery or improve the patient’s condition

3. The Human brain is still poorly understood, wo in many cases you will be dumbfounded without science or tools to solve cases.

Pro’s:

1. Variety of challenges as you work with the entire body, not just the spine

2. You will greatly improve many people's lives in amazing ways.

3. Gain a key understanding of the brain and nervous system
References

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