What is a Neurosurgeon?
A neurosurgeon is a specialist surgeon who has been trained in surgery on the spine and brain. They will be able to do any procedure you may need for your spine or brain. You may not have to see an orthopaedic surgeon or a neurologist before you see a neurosurgeon. They can do more complicated procedures such as spinal fusion or brain surgery.

What is a Spinal Surgeon?
A spinal surgeon has particular expertise in surgery on the spine. This means that not only will they do simple spinal procedures such as a microdiscectomy but will also do complex surgery such as a lumbar fusion. They are trained in both medical and surgical specialties and do such procedures as cervical decompression. Other specialties will service in terms of more demanding cases.

What is the difference between an Orthopaedic and a Neurosurgeon and who should operate on your spine?
If you have seen your local doctor and you have been referred to an orthopaedic surgeon but you are more hopeful of your surgeon to you. It is important for a choices surgeon who is in a good position that you need to ask your surgeon if you have any questions about your particular case.

How should you choose your surgeon?
You may wish to choose a surgeon as this is recommended to you by your local doctor. If someone you know has had a similar operation then you may want to ask your surgeon to you. It is important for a choices surgeon who is in a good position that you need to ask your surgeon if you have any questions about your particular case.

Where can I find another surgeon?
See the HSO TCP website. Most surgeons will have a website that includes a list of their operations.

Can I choose my anaesthetist?
You can choose your anaesthetist. If you are unsure then you may wish to ask your surgeon or your anaesthetist.

How do I find out how much I will be out of pocket from the hospital stay and from my health fund?
You will need to ask your hospital for the total cost of your hospital stay and then ask your health fund for the amount you will have to pay.

Go to the HSO TCP website. There are some questions and answers about this topic on the website. You can also ask your surgeon to you for more information.

If you have no insurance and have a spinal surgery in a public hospital you will have to pay a gap fee. If you have private insurance you will have to pay a gap fee. This gap fee is usually a fixed amount and is not related to the cost of your surgery. If you have private insurance you will have to pay a gap fee. This gap fee is usually a fixed amount and is not related to the cost of your surgery.

If you have no insurance and no health fund take a look at the Medicare ATO website. They have a list of what items are covered by Medicare and what is not covered.

What is a normal surgical out of pocket cost?
For most procedures you should not expect to be out of pocket more than $800.

Are there any questions that should ask your surgeon?
Yes. Your Physio will see the results of surgery and will have an idea if the surgery can be postponed or even avoided.

Can my Local Doctor refer me to someone different to whom he suggests?
Yes. Your Physio will see the results of surgery and will have an idea if the surgery can be postpone or even avoided.

What is the normal surgical out of pocket cost for spine surgery?
The initial fee would be around $150 with a rebate from medicare of $62.95 and a review would be about $900 with a rebate of $62.95.

What is a normal surgical out of pocket cost for spinal surgery?
The initial fee would be around $150 with a rebate from medicare of $62.95 and a review would be about $900 with a rebate of $62.95.

What is a spinal surgeon?
A spinal surgeon is trained or has particular experience in spinal surgery. This means that not only will they do simple spinal procedures such as a microdiscectomy but they will also do complex surgery such as a lumbar fusion. They are trained in both medical and surgical specialties and do such procedures as cervical decompression. Other specialties will service in terms of more demanding cases.

Is it worthwhile to travel a long distance to see someone and to have surgery?
If you have been referred to someone in another country to have surgery then you may want to ask your surgeon about your particular case.

If you are happy with what is explained and what needs to be done then No. If you feel that you are about to do something that you do not want to do or that does not make sense then another opinion may be appropriate.

What is the difference between an Orthopaedic and a Neurosurgeon?
Orthopaedic surgeons do surgery on the bones and joints of the body and spine surgery. Neurosurgeons do surgery on the brain and the spinal cord and spinal surgery. Both would be able to manage your spine but it is important if you are having a major procedure to choose a Neurosurgeon. This is because a Neurosurgeon will have more experience in surgery on the brain.

WHAT TO ASK YOUR SURGEON

How do I know if my surgeon is any good?
If you have no insurance and have a spinal surgery in a public hospital you will have to pay a gap fee. If you have private insurance you will have to pay a gap fee. This gap fee is usually a fixed amount and is not related to the cost of your surgery.

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