

Functional neurosurgeon

see [Functional neurosurgery](#).

While an [epilepsy center](#) has capabilities for advanced seizure monitoring and surgical intervention, they are not required to have a [functional neurosurgeon](#) who is primarily focused on [epilepsy surgery](#). Therefore, the objective of a study by Clark et al. from [Sacramento](#) was to determine the impact of having a sub-specialized, epilepsy-focused functional neurosurgeon on patient outcomes.

They conducted a retrospective [chart review](#) for all patients who underwent surgical intervention for medically refractory epilepsy at a Level 4 Comprehensive Epilepsy Center from 2008 through 2019. Data was divided into two groups: group 1 comprised patients who had surgery before the hiring of a dedicated epilepsy-focused functional neurosurgeon in 2016, and group 2 was afterward. They compared surgical procedures, significant complications, and seizure outcomes.

A total of 101 patients underwent 105 operations (52 in group 1 and 53 in group 2), not including intracranial EEG insertion. Compared to group 1, group 2 had more surgeries performed per year (15.1 vs. 6.5), and a significantly lower Engel score at last follow-up (1.78 vs. 2.57; $p < 0.001$). There was no difference in percentage of cases undergoing iEEG, and no difference in complication rates.

In this series, the hiring of a sub-specialized functional neurosurgeon dedicated to epilepsy surgery in a comprehensive epilepsy center was associated with an increase in surgical volume and improved seizure outcomes ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Clark AJ, Samuel R, Saez I, Kennedy J, Seyal M, Shahlaie K, Girgis F. The impact of sub specialization within functional neurosurgery on patient outcomes in a comprehensive epilepsy center. Clin Neurol Neurosurg. 2021 Apr 20;205:106636. doi: 10.1016/j.clineuro.2021.106636. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33984798.

From:

<https://neurosurgerywiki.com/wiki/> - **Neurosurgery Wiki**

Permanent link:

https://neurosurgerywiki.com/wiki/doku.php?id=functional_neurosurgeon

Last update: **2024/06/07 02:50**

