

□ Hubris

□ The Hubristic Savior He doesn't treat patients — he rescues them. Or so he believes.

He walks into the OR not as a clinician, but as a messiah. He doesn't just remove tumors — he performs miracles. Outcomes are not shared achievements, but personal victories. Failures are never his fault. When patients improve, it's because he operated. When they don't, it's because they waited too long, didn't follow instructions, or had "too much damage to begin with."

He speaks in heroic tones:

"If we hadn't acted fast, he wouldn't be here." "I had to take control of the situation." "Only one shot — we took it."

He conflates risk-taking with courage. Overconfidence is framed as conviction. Conservative options are for lesser mortals. If there's a safer path, it's "cowardice." If there's a bold one, it's "vision."

He confuses surgical boldness with moral superiority. He's not just trying to help. He's trying to be needed.

Where does it come from? A fragile identity built around invincibility. He is terrified of irrelevance — so he injects himself into every story as the protagonist. He avoids humility not because he doesn't know better, but because he can't tolerate being ordinary.

What are the consequences? He operates when he shouldn't. Pushes indications. Minimizes informed consent. Teaches residents that hesitation is weakness. And when disaster strikes, he's too invested in his self-image to acknowledge it.

Dishonesty type: □ Ethically dishonest

Distorts clinical decisions to support a personal narrative of heroism.

Hubris is a term that denotes excessive pride, [arrogance](#), or [overconfidence](#), especially when it leads individuals or institutions to overstep boundaries, ignore limitations, or disregard potential consequences.

□ Classical Origin:

From ancient Greek tragedy, hubris referred to a fatal overconfidence or defiance of natural limits, often punished by the gods. It is the flaw of heroes who fall due to their own inflated self-belief.

□ In Scientific/Medical Context:

"Surgical hubris" = Believing one can push anatomical or physiological limits without consequence, often in pursuit of maximalism.

Research hubris = Publishing bold claims based on weak evidence, assuming peer review won't notice.

□ Example in Neurosurgery:

Performing ever-larger resections near eloquent cortex under the belief that “transient dysfunction is worth the survival” — without adequate safeguards, monitoring, or patient-specific risk assessment — is a textbook case of neurosurgical hubris.

From:

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

Permanent link:

<https://neurosurgerywiki.com/wiki/doku.php?id=hubris>

Last update: **2025/06/21 18:36**

