

Paradigm shift

A **paradigm shift** is a fundamental change in the underlying assumptions, approaches, or methodologies within a particular field or discipline. The term was popularized by philosopher of science Thomas Kuhn to describe transformative changes in scientific thought.

In the context of [neurosurgery](#), a paradigm shift might refer to the transition from traditional [2D imaging](#) to immersive technologies like [3D virtual reality](#) and [3D printing](#) for [preoperative planning](#). These innovations redefine how surgeons visualize anatomy, plan interventions, and ultimately improve [patient safety](#) and surgical outcomes.

Such shifts often lead to new standards of practice, replacing older models that are no longer sufficient to address evolving clinical challenges.

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