

Subspecialization

Subspecialization is a phenomenon that not only results in better services and patient outcomes due to increased physician expertise but is also cost-effective ¹⁾.

Subspecialization with enfolded or post-residency fellowships can be pursued in pediatric neurosurgery, spine, neurointerventional, cerebrovascular/skull base, neuro-oncology, pain, trauma, and functional neurosurgery.

The subspecialization of neurosurgical practice is an ongoing trend in modern neurosurgery. However, it remains unclear whether the degree of surgeon specialization is associated with improved patient outcomes.

For both spinal and cranial surgery patient cohorts derived from the NIS database, increased surgeon specialization was significantly and independently associated with improved mortality and morbidity rates, even after controlling for overall case volume ²⁾.

¹⁾

Boszczyk B, et al. Spine surgery training and competence of European neurosurgical trainees. Acta Neurochir. 2009;151(6):619-628. doi: 10.1007/s00701-009-0259-8.

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McCutcheon BA, Hirshman BR, Gabel BC, Heffner MW, Marcus LP, Cole TS, Chen CC, Chang DC, Carter BS. Impact of neurosurgeon specialization on patient outcomes for intracranial and spinal surgery: a retrospective analysis of the Nationwide Inpatient Sample 1998-2009. J Neurosurg. 2017 Aug 4:1-11. doi: 10.3171/2016.4.JNS152332. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 28777023.

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