

# □ Technical Maximalism

**Technical maximalism** refers to:

The tendency to apply the **maximum available technology, tools, or surgical complexity** to a clinical problem — regardless of whether such escalation improves outcomes, reduces risk, or respects the patient's context.

## □ In Neurosurgery

- Using **exoscopes, fluorescence, intraoperative MRI, tubular retractors**, and neuronavigation in every case, even when not clinically justified
- Equating **complexity with quality**
- Assuming that **“more tech” = “better surgery”**

**“The lesion was small and asymptomatic, but they brought out the full armamentarium — classic case of technical maximalism.”**

## △ Consequences

- Increased operative time, cost, and risk
- Erosion of clinical judgment
- Over-reliance on tools instead of anatomical understanding
- **Loss of proportionality** between intervention and benefit

## □ Related Concepts

- [decorative neurosurgery](#)
- [clinical elegance](#)
- [academic theater](#)

**Synonyms:** surgical overengineering, gadget-driven surgery, technophilic excess

**Opposite:** Technical restraint, appropriate complexity, outcome-guided practice

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