



I.M. Doctor, M.D.

My Office

My City, State



# What is an orthopaedic surgeon?

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- } MD who specializes in treatment and health maintenance of musculoskeletal system (bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, tendons, cartilage and spine)



# What is an orthopaedic surgeon?

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- } The expert in treating the musculoskeletal system
- } The expert in maintaining musculoskeletal health



# Educating an Orthopaedic Surgeon

} College	4
} Medical School	4
} Internship	1
} Orthopaedic Residency	4
} Fellowship (optional)	(1)
} 2 Years Practice	<u>2</u>

**TOTAL**

**16 years!**



# What do orthopaedic surgeons do?

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} Diagnose

} Treat

| Medication

| Physical Therapy

| Exercise

| Brace

| Surgery

} Prevent



# Patient Safety

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} 1 out of every 5 people says that they or a family member experienced a medical mistake

- Source: Commonwealth Fund 2001 Health Care Quality Survey



# Patient Safety

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- } Medical Errors
- } General Patient Safety
- } Partnering for Best Surgical Outcomes
- } Ten Tips for Patient Safety



# What Are Medical Errors?

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- | Injuries caused by medical management (rather than the disease process)
- | Resulting in an adverse medical impact for the patient



# Where Do Medical Errors Occur?

} Hospitals

} Doctors' Offices

} Clinics

} Nursing Homes

} Outpatient Surgery  
Centers

} Pharmacies

} Patients' Homes



# Cost of Medical Errors

## } Human Costs:

- | Estimated as many as 44,000 to 98,000 deaths each year
- | More than motor vehicle accidents, breast cancer and AIDS combined

{ Source: *"To Err is Human"*, Institute of Medicine, 1999



# Medical Errors: Causes

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- } Numerous types of medication mistakes
- } Misread or disregarded lab or x-ray reports
- } Failure to wash hands between patients
- } Mismatching of blood types
- } Wrong-site surgery
- } Many others



# Principles of Patient Safety

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- } Ensuring patient safety is a national priority
- } Ensuring patient safety is a priority of orthopaedic surgeons
- } Patients play an important role



# Principles of Patient Safety

- } Be Active
- } Be Involved
- } Be Informed



# Speak Up

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- } Speak up about any concerns you have
- } You have a right to question
- } You have a right to know



# Speak Up

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- } Ask about anything you don't understand
- } Ask about, and confirm, any medications the nurse is about to give you
- } Make sure medical personnel check your ID bracelet before any procedure or medication



# Pay Attention to Your Healthcare

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- } Pay attention to the care you receive
- } If something doesn't seem right, say something to healthcare workers
- } Make sure you understand medical instructions and treatment plan



# Pay Attention to Your Healthcare

- } Be aware of who is treating you
- } Look for identification badges



# Pay Attention to Your Healthcare

} Washing hands helps prevent spread of infections



# Educate Yourself About Your Illness or Condition

- } Seek information about illness or conditions ([www.orthoinfo.org](http://www.orthoinfo.org)), options and treatment plans
- } Ask questions
- } Choose caregivers and facilities with related experience



# Educate Yourself About Your Illness or Condition

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- } Take notes
- } Thoroughly read all medical forms
- } Become familiar with how to operate equipment used in your treatment



# Educate Yourself About Your Illness or Condition

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} Consider the potential benefit of seeking another opinion



# Utilize an Advocate



} Ask for help from an advocate, family member, or friend to:

- | Come with you to doctor appointments
- | Stay with you in the hospital
- | Ask questions of health care professionals



# Utilize an Advocate

- } Ask for help from an advocate, family member or friend to :
  - | Review consent forms for treatment
  - | Remember health care instructions
  - | Know what to look for and who to call



# Utilize an Advocate

} An advocate, family member or friend can:

| Speak up for you if

| Know your wishes and  
you are not able to



# Know Your Medications



Medication errors are the most common health care mistakes

# Know Your Medications

- } Tell doctors and nurses about drug allergies
- } Ask for written information about medications



# Know Your Medications

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- } Clarify prescriptions
- } Follow directions exactly
- } Check for interactions
- } Make doctors aware of each other's prescriptions



# Quality Health Care Facilities

- } Use a quality hospital, clinic, surgery center or other health care organization
  - | Ask your doctor which hospital offers the best care for your condition



# Quality Health Care Facilities

- } Ask about the healthcare organization's experience in treating your type of illness or condition
  - | How frequently do they perform the procedure you need?
  - | What specialized care do they provide?



# Be a Member of Your Healthcare Team

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- } You are the center of your health care team
  - | Participate in all decisions about your treatment



# Be a Member of Your Healthcare Team

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Always share complete and up-to-date medical history records with your medical team.

Carry an up-to-date list of all your medications.



# Be a Member of Your Healthcare Team

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## Complete medical history records include:

- } medical conditions and illnesses
- } immunizations
- } allergies, reactions and sensitivities
- } hospitalizations
- } other doctors treating you
- } medications and dietary supplements (i.e., vitamins, herbal products)



# Be a Member of Your Healthcare Team

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- } Discuss exactly what will be done during each step of your care
- } Know who will take care of you
- } Know how long treatment will last
- } Know how you should feel
- } Speak with other patients



# Partnering for Best Surgical Outcomes

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- } Become educated about your diagnosis, treatment alternatives, and the course of care
- } Discuss surgical outcomes in detail
- } Discuss risks of surgery and possible complications



# Partnering for Best Surgical Outcomes

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- } Know what to expect
- } Research and ask questions



# Partnering for Best Surgical Outcomes

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- } Medical errors are rare and preventable
- } American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) is committed to ensuring patient safety and decreasing medical errors



# Partnering for Best Surgical Outcomes



# Partnering for Best Surgical Outcomes

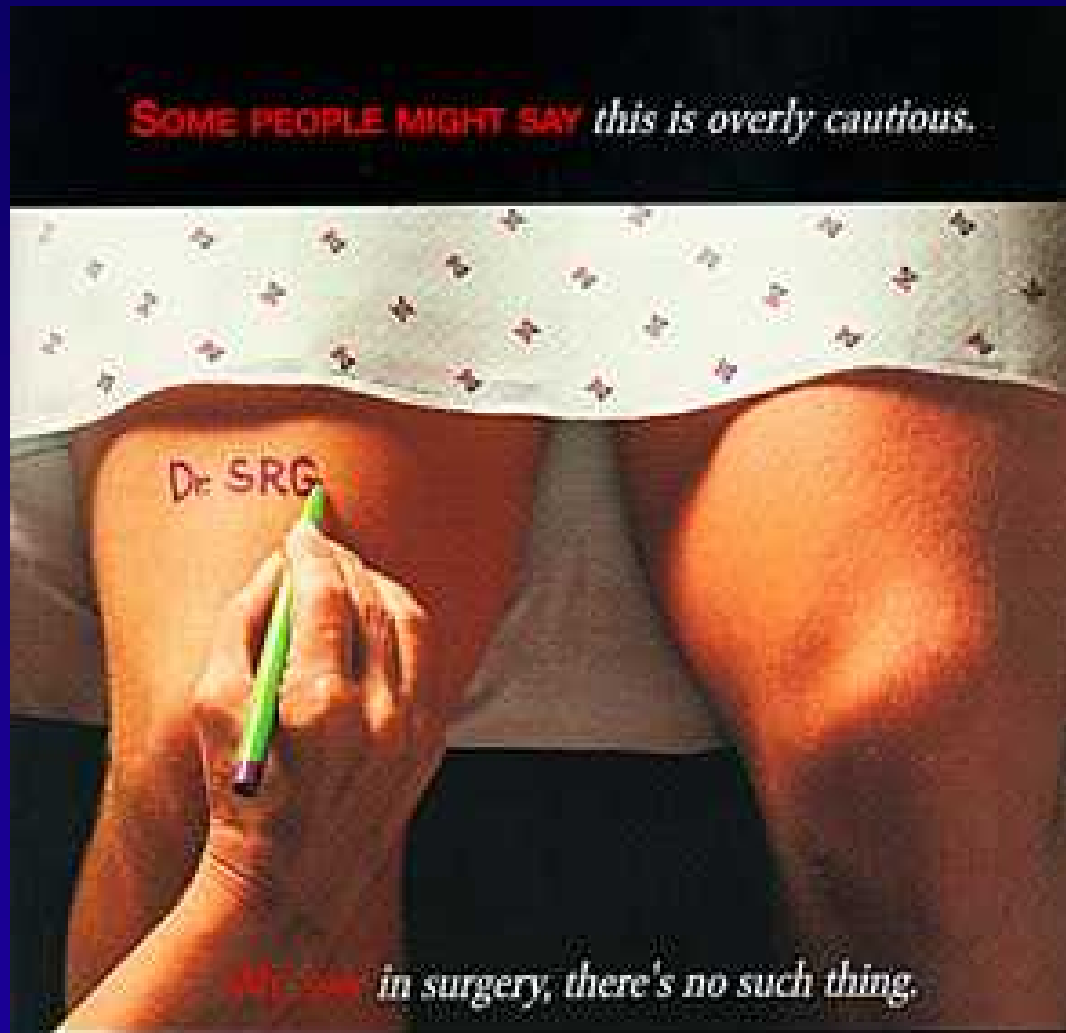


} AAOOS developed “sign your site”

- | Initiative to prevent errors from occurring in the operating room
- | Prevent wrong-site surgery



# Partnering for Best Surgical Outcomes





# 10 Safety Tips



# 10 Safety Tips

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**#1:** Be honest and complete when you talk with your doctor



# 10 Safety Tips

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**#2:** Enlist the help of an advocate,  
family member or friend



# 10 Safety Tips

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**#3:** Speak up if you are confused or have questions about treatments, medications or complications



# 10 Safety Tips

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#4: Ask for educational materials



# 10 Safety Tips

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#5: Know your specific diagnosis  
AND  
treatment plans



# 10 Safety Tips

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#6: Know your medication



# 10 Safety Tips

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#7: Avoid medication errors



# 10 Safety Tips

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#8: Prevent wrong site surgery



# 10 Safety Tips

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#9: Be clear about follow up care



# 10 Safety Tips

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**#10:** Prevent infections by asking medical professionals and visitors to wash their hands



# Patient Safety

## } Committed to patient safety

- | American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS)
- | Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)
- | National Patient Safety Foundation (NPSF)



# Resources

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Joint Commission on  
Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

One Renaissance Boulevard  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

[www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org)



# Resources

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National Patient Safety Foundation®

515 N. State Street  
Chicago, IL 60610

[www.npsf.org](http://www.npsf.org)



# Resources

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American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

6300 North River Road  
Rosemont, IL 60018

[www.patientsafety.aaos.org](http://www.patientsafety.aaos.org)

800-824-BONES (2663)



# Patient Safety

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What are your questions and concerns?





Thank you for participating today

