

12 Questions to Ask Your Surgeon

1. Is your surgical practice limited to spine?
2. How many years have you been in practice?
3. Have you done a spine fellowship?
4. Do you do more than 200 spinal operations each year?
5. Is my surgery being done at a teaching hospital?
6. Will you be in the operating room the ENTIRE time that I am under anesthesia?
7. Do you have medical students, interns, residents or fellows scrubbed into the surgery with you?
8. Do you do the suturing to close the skin on all of your surgeries?
9. Who is your assistant? Do you operate with another spinal specialist?
10. Are all of the anesthesiologists board certified? Are there medical students, interns, residents, fellows or nurse practitioners involved in any part of the anesthesia?
11. If requested, can I have your cell phone number for emergencies?
12. After surgery, do I see you every time or someone else? Who takes out my sutures or staples? Is that person a board certified spinal surgeon?