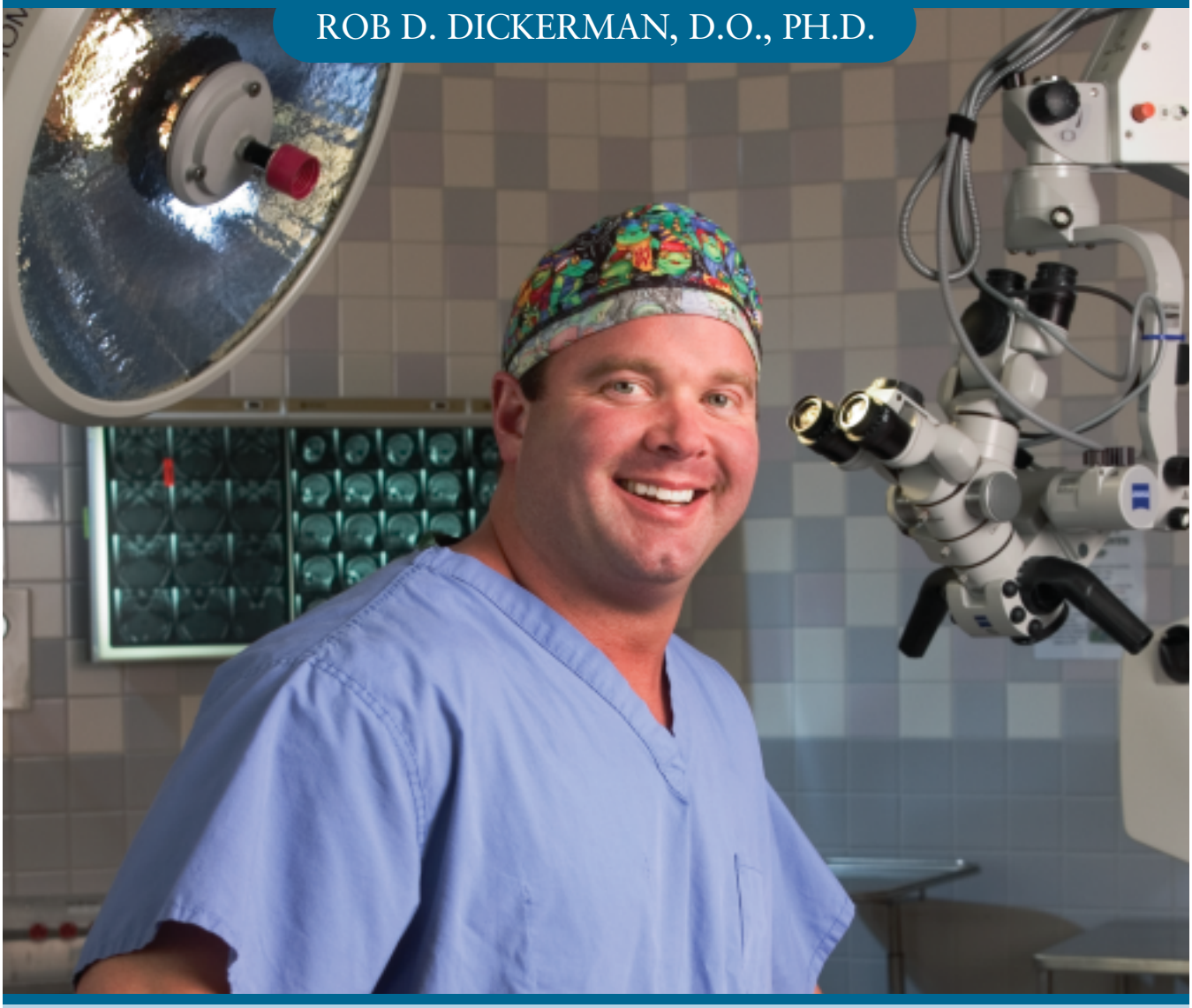
ROB D. DICKERMAN, D.O., PH.D.



Dr. Rob Dickerman's extensive education and training has placed him in the forefront of the nation's leading neurosurgeons. He has a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences and is recognized in the neurosurgical community for his published techniques on brain tumor surgery and complex spinal surgery.

He has a brain tumor fellowship from the National Institutes of Health (N.I.H.) in Bethesda, Maryland where he trained under world-renown neurosurgeon Dr. Ed Oldfield. In addition, Dr. Dickerman has a spine fellowship from the Texas Back Institute with emphasis in minimally invasive spinal surgery. He is one of only a few dual-fellowship trained neurosurgeons in the country and has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles and textbooks.

Dr. Dickerman is an associate professor of neurosurgery and trains medical students, residents, and other surgeons from around the world in advanced techniques in spinal surgery and brain tumor surgery. He has presented at conferences for years on advances in spinal surgery.

Dr. Dickerman's spine practice includes craniovertebral, cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spinal surgery. He has performed hundreds on minimally invasive spinal surgeries and takes pride in these advanced techniques. “These minimally invasive techniques allow for a quicker recovery for the patients and decreased hospitalization time.”

Dr. Dickerman has also implanted artificial lumbar discs and is currently involved in an ongoing trial for cervical artificial discs. He treats a large group of professional athletes including professional golfers, bodybuilders, football players, wrestlers, and boxers.

His cranial (brain) practice involves microvascular treatments for aneurysms, advanced image-guided navigation for resection of brain tumors, pituitary tumors, trauma, Chiari malformations, and hydrocephalus. He has a particular interest in the surgical treatment of brain tumors and is involved with ongoing clinical trials for the treatment of brain tumors. Dr. Dickerman has a basic science laboratory in conjunction with the University of North Texas Health Science Center for ongoing scientific research.

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NEUROSURGERY EXPERT

NEUROSURGEON: MORE THAN A BRAIN SURGEON

When people hear the term 'neurosurgery,' they automatically think of the brain. While brain surgery is certainly a large part of a neurosurgeon's practice, these specialists are also trained to treat patients suffering from back and neck pain as well as other serious illnesses ranging from epilepsy to Parkinson's disease.

People are often surprised to learn that neurosurgeons are also spine specialists. There are only 4,000 neurosurgeons in America, and of those, more than 80 percent specialize in spine surgery. Neurosurgeons provide both conservative (non-surgical care) and surgical care, depending on the nature of the illness or injury.

SELECTING A NEUROSURGEON FOR BRAIN TUMORS

When your medical condition indicates the need for a neurosurgeon, it's critical to select a surgeon who is appropriately trained in brain tumor surgery, including advanced microneurosurgical techniques. The surgeon should have the image-guided neuronavigation tools available for surgery. Participation in clinical trials available with new treatment options for patients with specific tumors is a plus. The neurosurgeon you choose should also have a collaboration with neurooncologists and radiation oncologists for appropriate postoperative care when indicated.

WHAT DO NEUROSURGEONS TREAT?

Neurosurgery is the specialty concerned with the diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of disorders affecting the spine, brain, and nervous system. This also encompasses disorders of the brain and skull; disorders of the cranial and spinal nerves; disorders of the pituitary gland; and disorders of the spinal cord and vertebral column. Some of the specific disorders neurosurgeons treat include:

- Tumors of the brain and spinal cord
- Aneurysms
- Chiari malformations
- Cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, spasticity
- Cervical spine disorders
- Chronic back or neck pain
- Epilepsy
- Herniated disk
- Hydrocephalus
- Lumbar spinal stenosis
- Pituitary tumors
- Sciatica
- Thoracic spine disorders
- Spinal instability

SELECTING A NEUROSURGEON FOR SPINE DISORDERS

Your neurosurgeon should be trained in the latest and most advanced spinal techniques, as spinal surgery is constantly changing. The surgeon must have the ability to offer microsurgical techniques (minimally invasive), motion-sparing technology such as artificial discs, dynamic stabilization, and numerous other available techniques. Each spine patient is unique and should have a treatment protocol catered to his or her own specific disorder. Therefore, it's helpful to select a surgeon who can offer both surgical and non-surgical treatment options.