TEXAS ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION
Established 1936

WHAT IS ORTHOPAEDICS?

Orthopaedic Surgeons Have Extensive Training in All Aspects of Human Anatomy, Disease and Pharmacology

Orthopaedic surgeons utilize both surgical and non-surgical techniques to treat the complex musculoskeletal system, which controls bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, muscles, and nerves. They treat sports injuries, musculoskeletal trauma, tumors, infections, degenerative diseases, and congenital disorders. An orthopaedic surgeon has been trained to understand the entire human body and how different types of medical conditions may impact musculoskeletal health, and vice versa.

The treatment of musculoskeletal injuries and conditions is one of the most complex acts in medicine. As a result, orthopaedic surgeons, who have extensive training in the proper diagnosis and treatment of injuries and diseases of the musculoskeletal system, must go through an extensive training process before beginning independent practice.

In many cases, orthopaedic surgeons have completed up to 14 years of formal education. Sometimes, they have completed more. This includes undergraduate study, medical school, a five-year orthopaedic residency, and fellowships and internships.

Furthermore, in order to obtain board certification after completion of training, an orthopaedic surgeon must undergo a peer review process followed by a demonstration of his/her expertise by passing oral and written examinations given by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. They must complete a rigorous re-certification process every 10 years.

How Selective Is Orthopaedics?

Texas has 11 civilian orthopaedic residency programs and two military programs. Orthopaedic surgery residency is a difficult endeavor, which results in high selectivity.

6 Six residency slots were awarded to the 690 applicants to the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio's orthopaedic residency program in 2017-18.

Orthopaedics in Dallas-Fort Worth: The Impact

From the football sidelines to scoliosis to trauma to knee replacements and more, orthopaedic surgeons are getting patients moving again in every community. Orthopaedic surgeons practice in a variety of settings, including traditional general hospitals, specialty hospitals that focus on orthopaedics, ambulatory surgery centers, and the clinic setting.

The following is a look at the impact of orthopaedic surgeons in the Dallas-Fort Worth area:

482 The number of orthopaedic surgeons practicing in the DFW Metroplex. (Based on Texas Medical Board data.)

20 The number of physician-owned hospitals in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. (Based on Texas DSHS data.)

39 Thirty-nine DFW-area ACSs contributed to the 130,000 orthopaedic same-day surgeries were performed in Texas' ASCs in the state's 2016-17 period.

The Prevalence of Musculoskeletal Issues

More than one in four Americans suffer from bone or joint problems, making it the leading cause of physical disability in the United States. This resulted in 440 million missed work days and 25 percent of all new disability claims in 2014.

31% Percentage of participants in the Employees Retirement System of Texas who had a musculoskeletal diagnosis in FY 2017.

23% Percentage of participants in the Teacher Retirement System of Texas who had a musculoskeletal diagnosis in FY 2017.