

Orthopaedic Connection

Patient Education

By Thomas J. Haverbush, M.D.
Orthopaedic Surgeon

Transforming patient information into patient understanding.

This "class" on Patient Education is in a sense a sequel to what I wrote two weeks ago, "What Does the Art of Medicine Mean?"

I have always felt that educating patients and families I see is as important as what I do for them from a clinical or Orthopaedic Surgery standpoint. On my website www.orthopodsurgeon.com a changing banner appears on occasion that states "An Educated Patient is Our Best Result".

The Orthopaedic Surgery care that I provide must be complimented by very good information that I can give to patients and families. With that information they can make proper decisions about their care. It is a partnership.

Health Information

I believe that health care information should be local not "global". Most patients are more confused than informed by the tangle of information they get from surfing the web. Any subject has hundreds of articles and you have no idea who wrote the information you are reading.

Educational Programs

For years I have been developing programs to educate patients and families about Orthopaedic and musculoskeletal conditions and problems.

This weekly article "Orthopaedic Connection" in Gratiot County Herald is a very important part of the program, but by no means the only one.

Other educational activities from our office besides the Gratiot County Herald weekly "Orthopaedic Connection" include:

- The Flagship - the office website www.orthopodsurgeon.com and Your Orthopaedic Connection
- Lakeview Area News - weekly newspaper article
- Shepherd Argus - weekly newspaper article
- Gratiot Senior and Montcalm Senior - monthly newspaper articles
- TV 3 Public Television programs - "Your Health Matters" in conjunction with Gratiot Medical Center
- Numerous presentations to area groups and meetings

- A large number of informational brochures and hand outs in the office
- There will soon be an archive on www.orthopodsurgeon.com of all my articles in all three newspapers, Gratiot County Herald, Lakeview Area News, and Shepherd Argus.

I think my office can be the Patient Education Center for Orthopaedic and musculoskeletal information in this area. The information provided is based on my own training at University of Michigan and Cleveland Clinic, my reading, attending meetings and experience in Orthopaedic Surgery in this community.

Future

I think you can see that my view of Orthopaedic Surgery and musculoskeletal care goes far beyond setting a fracture or doing a good joint replacement.

There will be new ways of "Transforming patient information into patient understanding" in the future.

I will be there to bring important information to anyone who wishes to learn, because "An educated patient is our best result".

New Feature

Factoid

A rib fracture in men aged 65 and older can be considered a classic risk marker for osteoporosis in men. It often leads to much more serious osteoporosis fractures such as hip and spine fractures. Sadly, at this time very few male patients are evaluated and treated by their doctors with bone specific drugs after their incidental rib fracture.

Always remember to check out www.orthopodsurgeon.com/ Your Orthopaedic Connection for much more information.

Our goal is simple - To help people return to more pain free, functional lives. I specialize in you.

Good health. Good life. All the best to you.

Be well.

Dr. Haverbush