



CHOOSING A SPINE SURGEON

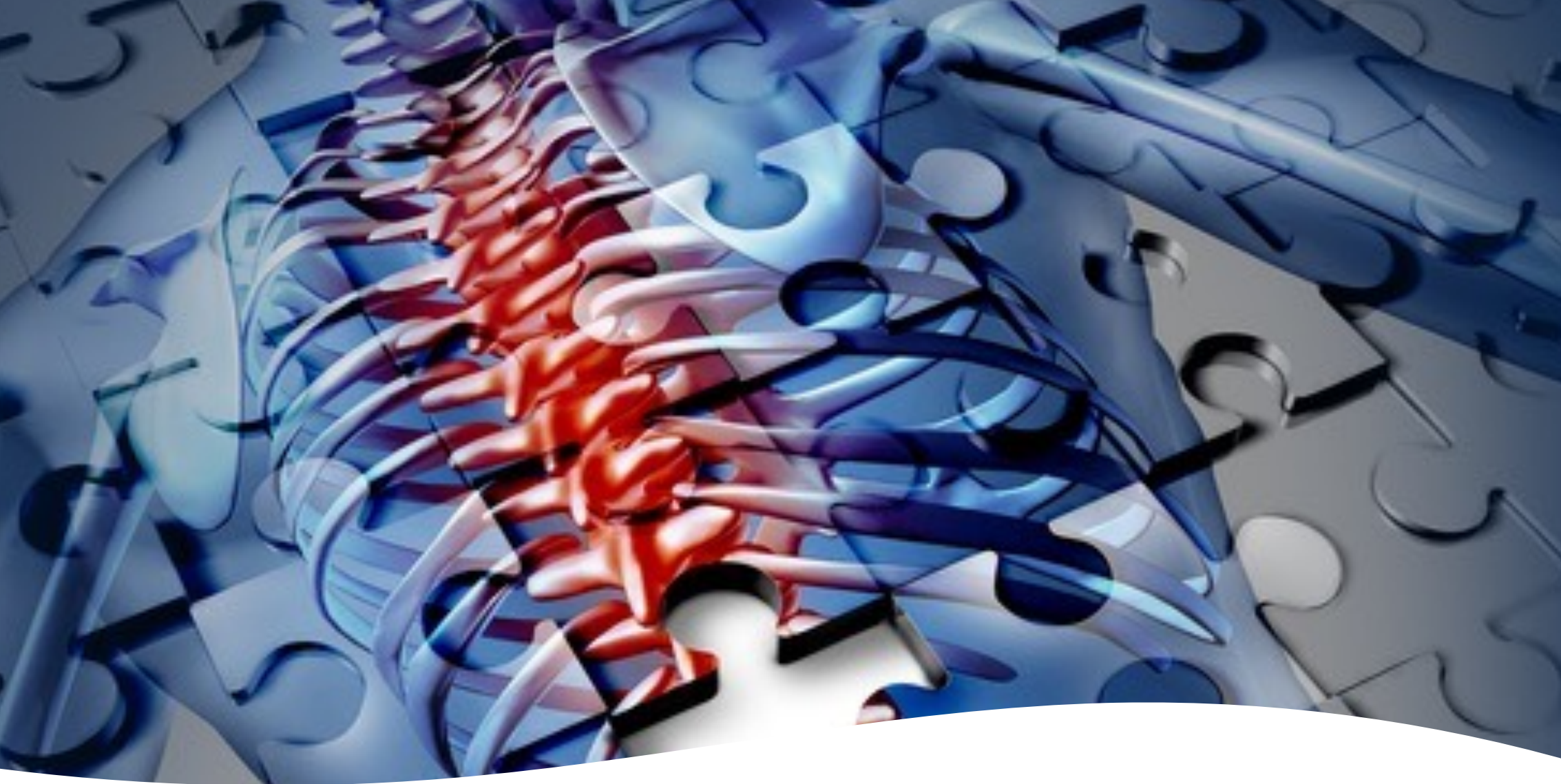
HELPING YOU GET YOUR LIFE BACK!



EZRIEL E. KORNEL, MD
Top Spine Surgeon NYC

914-948-0444

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MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY – YOUR ROAD TO RECOVERY BEGINS HERE

Dr. Kornel is an extraordinarily passionate, experienced and dedicated spine surgeon who has built his practice from the ground up to make your entire experience a positive one. Dr. Kornel deeply understands that spinal surgery itself is just one small part of a much larger process. He is committed to

doing whatever it takes to help facilitate your recovery and to help make sure that you and your family receive excellent care in a warm, safe and innovative environment.

When dealing with something as important as spinal surgery, some patients will require a deeper, more specialized level of care that can only be provided by a specialist. For situations where a general care practitioner cannot provide you the relief you seek, your next step involves both spine surgery and the dedicated care of a spine specialist.

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BACK SURGERY CAN BE LIFE CHANGING

Spine surgery is generally an elective procedure unless a significant neurological impairment exists due to a disorder of the spine. In these cases, spine surgery may be required emergently. These impairments include severe weakness such as a foot drop, leg weakness making it difficult to stand and walk, or severe arm or hand weakness, and possibly sudden bladder and/or bowel dysfunction.

The same is true if the pain has reached a point where you are unable to complete the daily basic activities of your life without dealing with a large degree of pain in the process.

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CHANGE YOUR OUTLOOK ON LIFE WITH THE RIGHT SPINE SURGEON

Just as it would be true with any other type of medical professional, the decision of which spine surgeon to work with will always require you to proceed with a certain degree of caution. A large part of spine surgery success comes down to the doctor-patient relationship you've been able to forge with your specialist.

Your spine surgeon should be someone who you trust explicitly and who you have complete confidence in regarding their experience, their training and their overall level of qualifications. No two spine surgeons are created in quite the same way – some are more emotional, while others are more straightforward. Some are intimate, while others are more distant. Some have condition-specific training, others do not.

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CHANGE YOUR OUTLOOK ON LIFE WITH THE RIGHT SPINE SURGEON

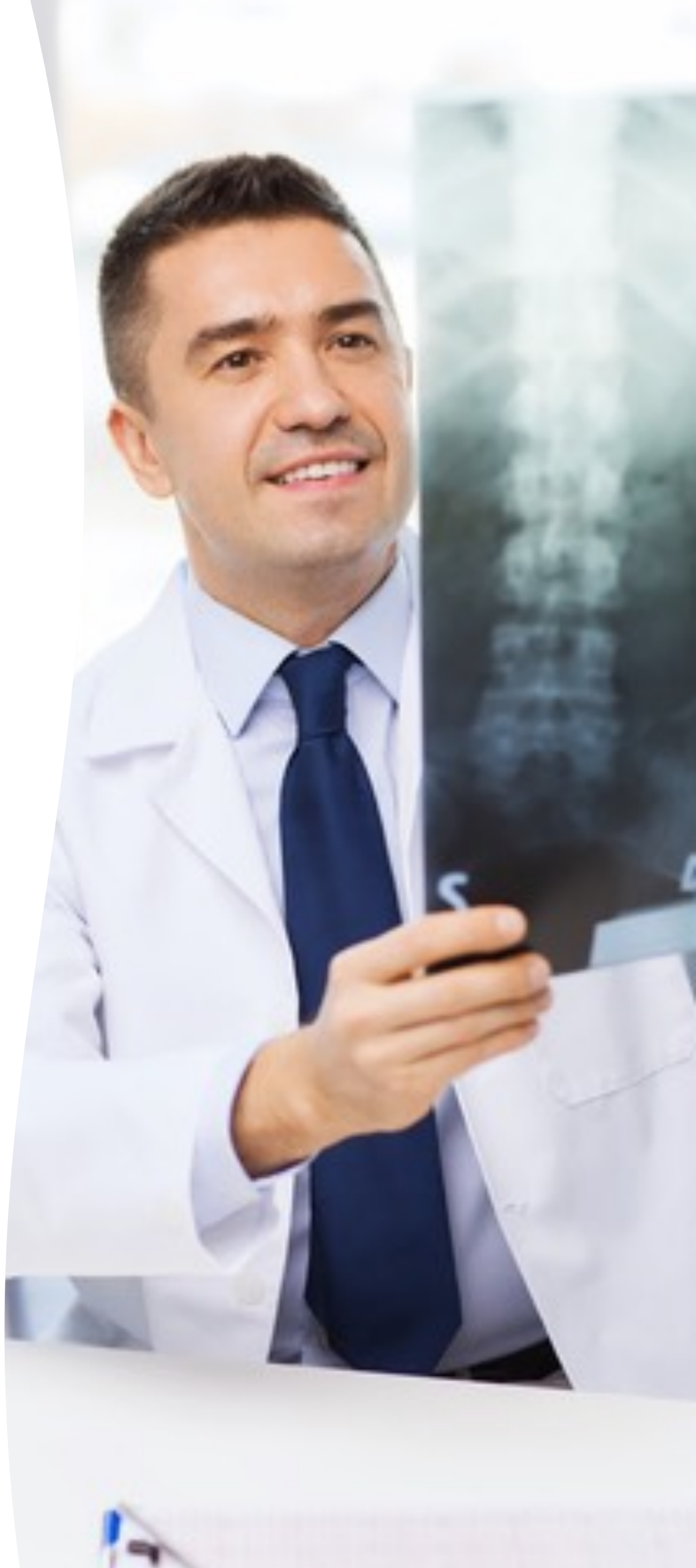
As a result, it's always important that you choose a surgeon who is not only highly skilled, but who has also been able to develop a deeply rooted sense of trust and comfort with you throughout the course of your relationship.

Only by considering a spine surgeon in the context of your own needs, desires and preferences will you be able to make the right decision and put yourself in the best possible position for the days, weeks and months ahead.

To choose the right spine surgeon, you should always keep a number of key things in mind.

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DEEPER CARE: ORTHOPEDIC SURGEONS AND NEUROSURGEONS FOR SPINE SURGERY

One of the first decisions you'll have to make regarding a potential spine surgeon involves whether to go with an orthopedic surgeon, or whether it might be better for your situation to go with a neurosurgeon.

The fact of the matter is that both orthopedic surgeons and neurosurgeons can be considered for the vast majority of spine surgery procedures. However, it will ultimately come down to the specific condition that you face when making a choice one way or the other.



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WHEN YOU SHOULD PICK A NEUROSURGEON FOR YOUR SPINAL SURGERY NEEDS

The major factor regarding your decision to work with a neurosurgeon or an orthopedic surgeon will ultimately come down to the specific area of your body that is causing the pain you're now going through.

A neurosurgeon, for example, is trained in both the diagnosis and treatment of disorders that involve areas like:



- ✓ Your brain
- ✓ Your spine
- ✓ Your spinal cord
- ✓ Your nerves
- ✓ Intracranial vascular disorders
- ✓ Intraspinial vascular disorders

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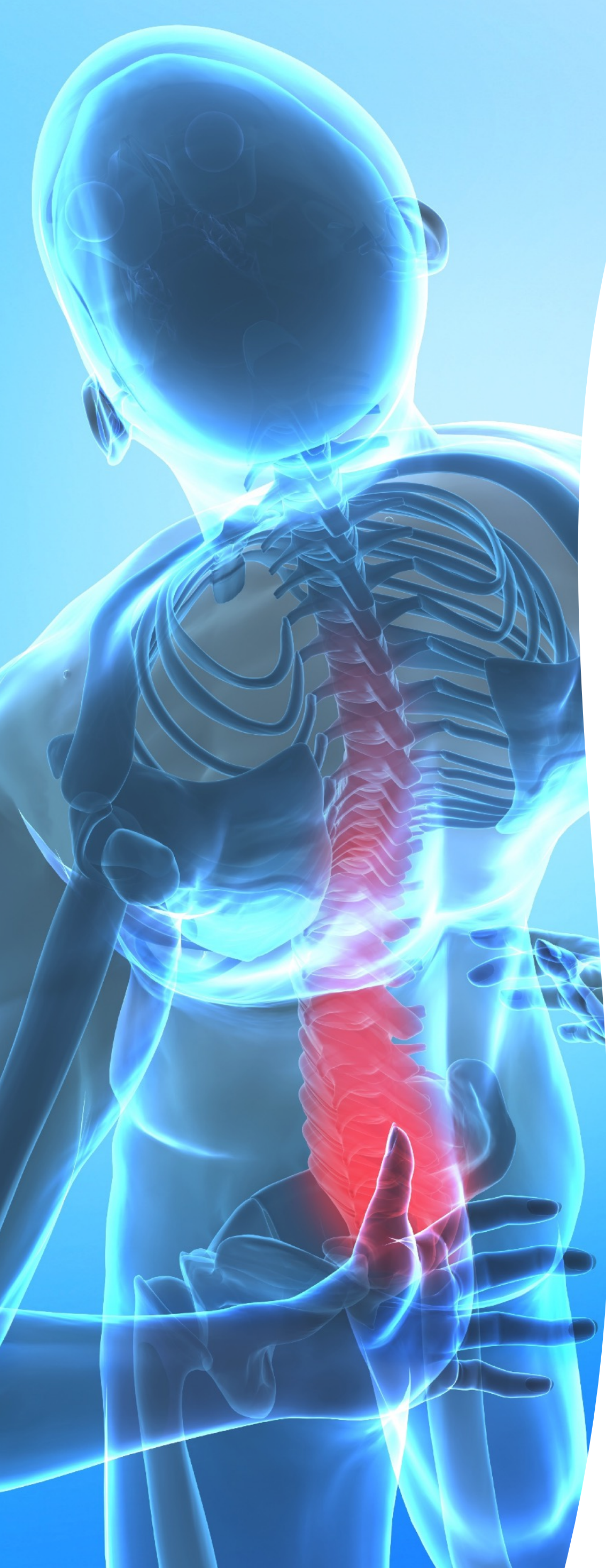


WHEN YOU SHOULD PICK A NEUROSURGEON FOR YOUR SPINAL SURGERY NEEDS

As one of the top neurosurgeons in the New York metropolitan area, Dr. Kornel has been a pioneer in minimally invasive spinal surgery since 1987. Not only was he involved in the early development of many of the important surgical instruments that are used in both endoscopic and minimally invasive spine surgery, but he has also taught these techniques to other spine surgeons so that they could be used to improve the lives of patients all over the country.

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WHEN YOU SHOULD PICK A NEUROSURGEON FOR YOUR SPINAL SURGERY NEEDS

Dr. Kornel began his career studying at George Washington University Medical Center under the guidance of Hugo Rizzoli, M.D., who was one of the most respected and widely recognized neurosurgeons in the world. Dr. Kornel is committed to providing a deeper level of care like no other and has not only written a plethora of scientific articles on the topics of spinal surgery and neurosurgery in general, but also holds the patents for many instruments that will be used for percutaneous spine fusion surgery in the years to come.

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FINDING THE BEST SPINE SURGEON BEGINS WITH THESE SIMPLE QUESTIONS

As previously stated, an environment of open and honest communication is one of the keys to any successful patient-doctor relationship, but it is especially important when trying to find the right spine surgeon to meet your needs. As a result, there are a number of important questions that you should always ask before choosing to go with a care provider.

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FINDING THE BEST SPINE SURGEON BEGINS WITH THESE SIMPLE QUESTIONS

✓ **"What type of surgery are you recommending and what type of relief will this provide me that others will not?"**

If a spine surgeon truly feels like any one particular type of procedure is the right way to go, they should be able to cut through the medical jargon and explain in no uncertain terms WHY this is the best decision to make. At the end of their answer you should feel the utmost confidence knowing that you're dealing with a professional who truly believes they can help achieve the results you deserve.

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FINDING THE BEST SPINE SURGEON BEGINS WITH THESE SIMPLE QUESTIONS

- ✓ **"What is the source of the pain that I'm experiencing that will be addressed with this procedure? How do you know this?"** This is another important question because it helps cement in your mind the idea that the selected procedure is truly the right way to go.
- ✓ You're not considering spine surgery for temporary relief – you're considering it because you want to permanently take care of problems that you're experiencing. Only by addressing the source of the pain will you get the long-lasting relief that you desire.

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FINDING THE BEST SPINE SURGEON BEGINS WITH THESE SIMPLE QUESTIONS

- ✓ **"Can you explain the specifics of your ideal procedure in greater detail?"** No spine surgeon should hesitate to give you as much information as possible about what they're prepared to do for you.
- ✓ The total amount of information that you're looking for will depend entirely on your personal preferences. If you need all the information you can get, make sure that your doctor is willing to provide it.

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FINDING THE BEST SPINE SURGEON BEGINS WITH THESE SIMPLE QUESTIONS

✓ **"What are my non-surgical options?"** As with any medical procedure, the decision regarding whether or not to move forward is yours and yours alone to make. A spine surgeon can only recommend the course of action that they feel is best – it's up to you to move forward or pursue other options. As a result, it's always important to understand exactly what those other options are and finding out about non-surgical alternatives is a great way to make sure you have the most actionable information to use moving forward.

✓ **"What are the side effects, complications and other potential risks that I should know about?"** Even though many state-of-the-art spinal surgery options are minimally invasive, any procedure like this comes with a certain degree of risk.

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FINDING THE BEST SPINE SURGEON BEGINS WITH THESE SIMPLE QUESTIONS

It's up to you to determine whether or not that risk is worth the reward, so to speak. By finding out more about side effects, risks and other potential complications, you can get a better idea in your mind of how comfortable you feel with both your doctor and your selected procedure.

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FINDING THE BEST SPINE SURGEON BEGINS WITH THESE SIMPLE QUESTIONS

- ✓ **"If I were your friend, your spouse or your child, what would you recommend?"** While this is a bit of a pointed question, it does open the door to honesty. Spine surgeons have a duty to all patients and are required to provide an equal level of high quality care to everyone who walks through their door, no exceptions.
- ✓ If the spine surgeon you have selected is unwilling to perform the same procedure on a loved one, it's a good indication that you both should consider other options as far as the procedure is concerned and that you also might want to start looking for a new spine surgeon at the same time.



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BOARD CERTIFICATION AND FELLOWSHIP TRAINING: YOUR TICKETS TO EXPERIENCE, CONFIDENCE AND RELIEF

Two of the most important aspects of a spine surgeon that you'll want to properly investigate before making your decision have nothing to do with where their practice is located or how long they've been in business. They have to do with the advanced levels of training that they've received, particularly by way of board certification and fellowships.



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BOARD CERTIFICATION AND FELLOWSHIP TRAINING: YOUR TICKETS TO EXPERIENCE, CONFIDENCE AND RELIEF

Board certification for spine surgeons is a distinction that is only awarded after an extensive post-graduate education, followed up by an intense examination process. According to the American Board of Neurological Surgery, board certification for neurological surgery only comes after at least seven years of neurosurgery residency training. This training itself must consist of at least 4.5 years of core clinical neurosurgery, including the following requirements:



- ✓ A spine surgeon must spend at least 12 months as a chief resident.
- ✓ They must have at least three months of basic neuroscience.
- ✓ They must have at least three months of critical care relevant to their neurosurgery patients.
- ✓ They must have at least six months of structured education in general patient care dealing with issues like trauma, orthopedic surgery, otolaryngology and more.

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BOARD CERTIFICATION AND FELLOWSHIP TRAINING: YOUR TICKETS TO EXPERIENCE, CONFIDENCE AND RELIEF

Additionally, they must have at least 2.5 years of elective education in topics like neuroradiology research, complex spine surgery, endovascular neurosurgery and similar focuses.

Fellowships in neurosurgery allow a spine surgeon to go above and beyond even these stringent requirements, providing a full additional year of training specific to spine surgery after their residency program has been completed. It is always important that you choose only a spine surgeon that has completed these advanced levels of training.

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Dr. Kornel – The Experience You Can Depend On

Based in Westchester and New York City, Dr. Ezriel E. Kornel is a passionate, highly-trained and board certified medical professional who considers his greatest gift to be the opportunity he gets to give patients back their lives with each passing day. Dr. Kornel has built his career on not only providing an unparalleled level of care to patients, but also on being one of the most innovative and forward thinking neurosurgeons in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut areas.

Not only was he among the first neurosurgeons to replace damaged cervical discs with artificial discs, but he also was one of the first to perform percutaneous lumbar fusions. He also played a pivotal role in introducing frameless stereotaxic guided cranial surgery to hospitals in Westchester County, which help saved the lives of countless people through minimally invasive brain surgery.

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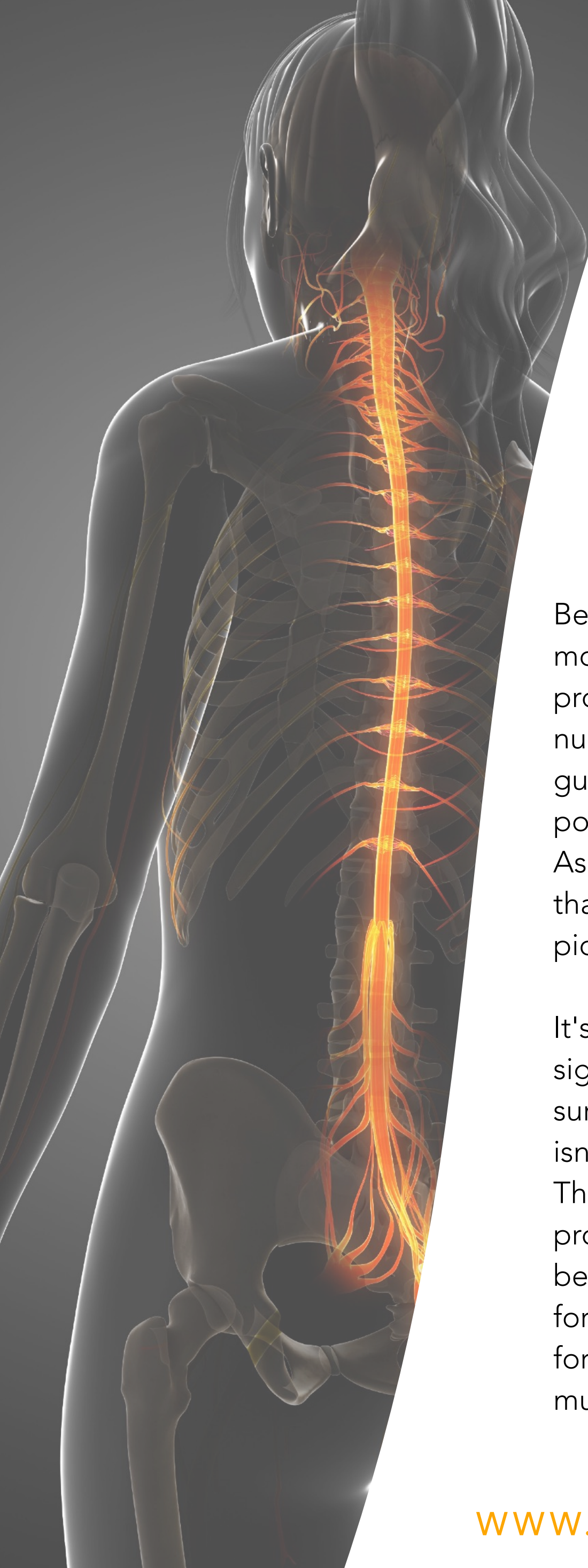
Dr. Kornel – The Experience You Can Depend On

Dr. Kornel has won a large number of awards from leading national organizations and publications for his quality of work over the years, including but not limited to ones like:

- ✓ Castle Connolly Top Doctors – New York Metro Area
- ✓ Compassionate Doctor Award
- ✓ Castle Connolly Top Doctors – 2015
- ✓ Patients' Choice
- ✓ Westchester Magazine
- ✓ Strathmore's Who's Who
- ✓ WAG – A Lifestyle Magazine
- ✓ Consumer Reports' Guide to America's Top Surgeons
- ✓ and more.

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RED FLAGS: WARNING SIGNS THAT A SPINE SURGEON ISN'T THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU

Before choosing to work with a specialist or move forward with any one particular type of procedure, it's always important to take a number of cautionary measures to guarantee that you're making the best possible decision for your health and body. As a result, there are certain warning signs that you should always watch out for before picking a spine surgeon to meet your needs.

It's important to note that these warning signs do not necessarily mean that a spine surgeon is of poor quality or that he or she isn't acting with your best interests in mind. They simply mean that the medical professional you're dealing with might not be the best fit for you as a patient and thus forming the trust and confidence necessary for the procedure's success will be much, much harder than it should be.

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RED FLAGS: WARNING SIGNS THAT A SPINE SURGEON ISN'T THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU

Your spine surgeon doesn't allow or actively discourages a second opinion. If a medical professional truly believes that their recommendation is the best course of action to take, they should have no problem allowing you to get a second opinion. If anything, another spine surgeon should only confirm what this person is saying and give you the peace of mind that comes with knowing you made the right decision.

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RED FLAGS: WARNING SIGNS THAT A SPINE SURGEON ISN'T THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU

Your spine surgeon presents “exploratory” surgery as an option. With the advancements in imaging technology that the spine surgery profession has seen over the last several years alone, exploratory surgery is largely unnecessary in the vast majority of all cases. This is another situation where a second opinion will be beneficial.

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RED FLAGS: WARNING SIGNS THAT A SPINE SURGEON ISN'T THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU

You're experiencing a general lack of transparency. You have important questions, but you're not getting answers. You have necessary considerations, but you're not getting satisfaction. Information relating to the specifics of the procedure as well as things like costs and outcomes is not forthcoming, which is putting a greater level of doubt in your mind with each passing day.

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RED FLAGS: WARNING SIGNS THAT A SPINE SURGEON ISN'T THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU

- ✓ Your spine surgeon is making an active attempt to influence your decision. As always, the decision of whether or not to perform a particular procedure is yours alone to make. This means that nobody, including a spine surgeon, should try to make it for you.
- ✓ Spinal surgery is presented as anything other than an elective procedure. While spinal surgery can definitely help you get the relief from pain that you so desperately need, it is most frequently an elective surgery and is not considered a "life-saving" procedure. If your spine surgeon tries to tell you otherwise, it may be an indication that you should look for a different medical professional that you'll feel more comfortable with in the long run.

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DR. EZRIEL KORNEL – A PROFESSIONAL WORTHY OF YOUR TRUST

As a highly trained and board-certified neurosurgeon, Dr. Ezriel Kornel has been on the forefront of minimally invasive spine surgery for the last several decades. His level of care and attention to detail is second to none and he has been proudly serving patients since 1984.

Additionally, he also dutifully served his country as part of an elite team who cared for former press secretary James Brady after he sustained a devastating gunshot wound inflicted during the attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s. Some of the honors that Dr. Ezriel Kornel has been awarded include "Best Doctor" status by numerous publications, including both the US News and World Report and America's Top Surgeons.

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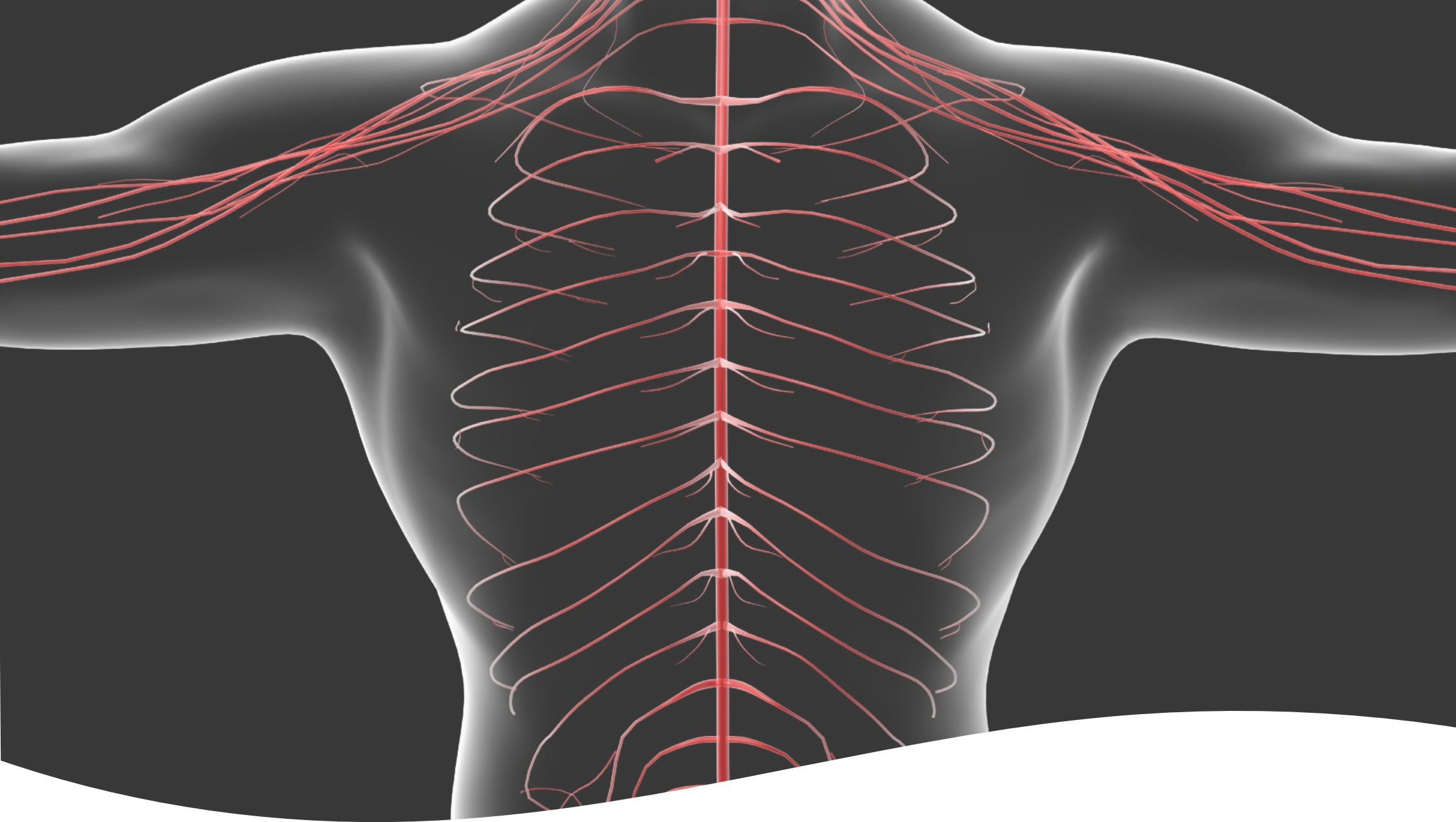
DR. EZRIEL KORNEL – A PROFESSIONAL WORTHY OF YOUR TRUST

Dr. Kornel also holds the distinction of being one of the first neurosurgeons in the entire New York metropolitan area to successfully replace damaged cervical discs with artificial discs, which at that time was one of the most state-of-the-art techniques on the market.

If you're experiencing back and neck pain and believe that spinal surgery is your ticket to a healthier and better life, it's important to understand that this is not a road you have to travel alone. Contact Dr. Ezriel Kornel today at **914-948-0444** or visit **topspinesurgeonyny.com** for more information about how he can help you change your outlook towards life for the better.

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CONTACT DR. KORNEL

SURGICAL APPOINTMENTS

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MEDIA INQUIRIES

Dr. Kornel is available for TV, Radio
and other media or speaking
opportunities

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