Do you have to be selfish to be a surgeon?

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Poll

Yes | No

Surgeons

Surgeon's spouses/partners

Anaesthetists

Nurses

Operating Theatre staff

In-patients

Medical students

Non-medical college students
Poll

- No: 70%
- Yes: 30%
Do you have to be selfish to be a surgeon?

- All or most surgeons are selfish
- It helps to be selfish
“Selfish”

- 2 layers
- Individualism

- 1. Concerned chiefly with one’s own personal profit, pleasure
“Selfish”

- 2 layers
- Malevolence

- 2. Lacking in consideration for others
Perspectives

‘Selfish’ as an inaccurate, biased perspective?
Perspectives

- Surgeon declines high risk procedure
- High difficulty
- High risk of treatment
- Fear of failure
- Fear of litigation
- Other personal commitments

Depriving patient of treatment
Perspectives

- Surgeon declines high risk procedure
- Acknowledging own care and wellbeing
Motivation behind “Selfish”

- Who am I being selfish for?
- May include other individual(s)

- Patient
Motivation behind “Selfish”

- Who am I being selfish for?
- May include other individual(s)

- Surgical team
Motivation behind “Selfish”

- Who am I being selfish for?
- May include other individual(s)

- Institution
Definition of “Selfish”

- Subjective
- Malevolence
- Patient-centred care
- Individualism
Definition of “Selfish”

- Subjective
- Standard
- Observers
- Individual
- and situational
Definition and degree of “Selfish”

- Possible decisions in a situation
Do you have to be selfish to be a surgeon?

- Should have the **courage** to do what is best for the patient.
- Even if it means appearing selfish.
Questions?