



Royal College
of Surgeons

ADVANCING SURGICAL CARE

Life as a surgeon

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Chair, Future Surgeons Forum

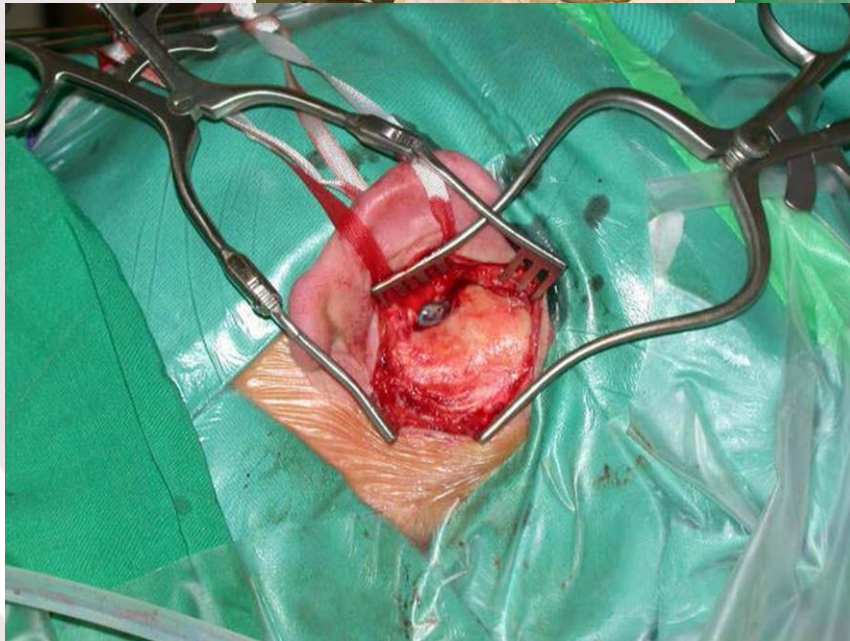
@TMitchellFRCS

Starting out in surgery conference

10 May 2018

What is a surgeon?

A doctor who
operates



Surgical specialties



Cardiothoracic surgery

Otolaryngology (ENT)

General surgery

Neurosurgery

Oral and maxillofacial surgery

Trauma and orthopaedic surgery

Paediatric surgery

Plastic surgery

Urology

Vascular surgery

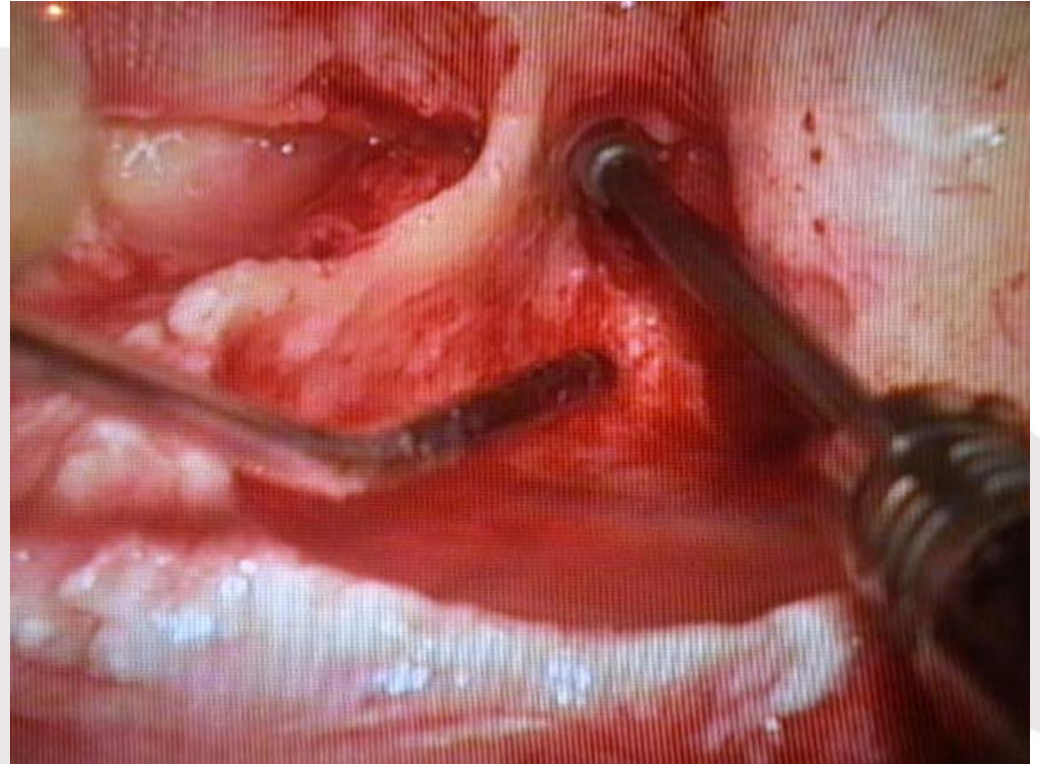
What do surgeons do?

Operate

Elective

Emergency

On call



What do surgeons do?

Not operate

Other procedures

Outpatients

Ward rounds

MDTs

Admin

Teach / train

Research

Management



Consultant job plan



10 Programmed activities

8 Direct clinical care

2 Supporting professional activities

6 – 7 clinical sessions

On call

Additional sessions

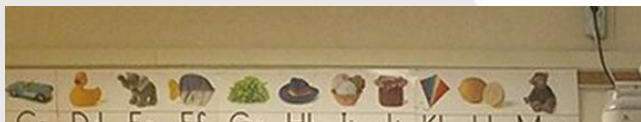
Less than full time

Other opportunities

Training roles
Examining
Interviewing
Overseas work
Charity work
BMA
GMC
etc etc



Private practice



Skills

Manual dexterity

Good knowledge of anatomy / physiology

Ability to think and act quickly and decisively

Ability to cope with the risks and complications of surgery

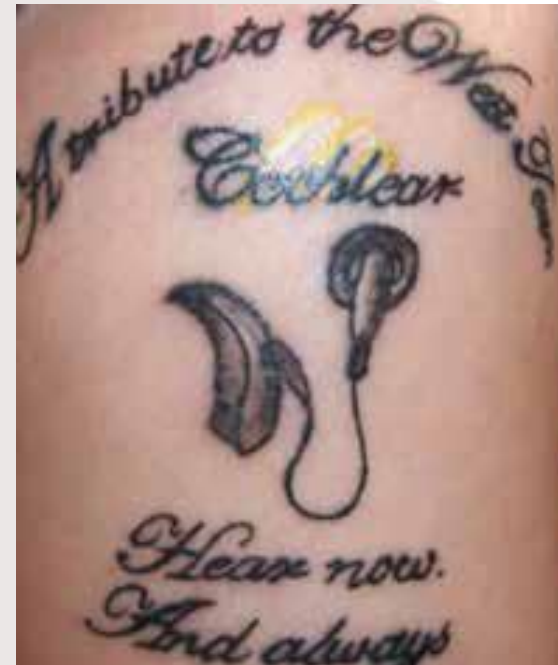
Self knowledge and self discipline

Immediate results

Variety – every day brings
a different challenge

Gratitude of patients

**“I will be forever grateful
for getting my life back”**



Challenges

Demanding training

Stamina and commitment

Maintenance of surgical knowledge



