

Four questions to ask before orthopedic surgery.

If you've been told you need orthopedic surgery, it's smart to get a second opinion. Here are questions to ask any surgeon to help decide where to be treated.

Q: Do they have specialists for my problem?

A: "For any problem, you want a team that specializes in that surgery, because more experience leads to better success rates," explains Joshua Blomgren, DO, sports medicine specialist. "At Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush, we have specialized teams in shoulders, hands, wrists, hips, knees, foot and ankle, the spine, and more. And our surgeons are leaders in their field, teaching the techniques and procedures we have helped pioneer to other surgeons across the world."

Q: Do they offer less invasive options?

A: "Today, almost every type of surgery can be done less invasively," explains Scott Sporer, MD, hip and knee surgeon. "Surgeons at Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush have invented many less invasive procedures. We have the expertise and technology to offer a wide range of alternatives to conventional open surgery, including non-surgical options and minimally invasive procedures not available elsewhere in the region."

Q: How experienced are they at this procedure?

A: "Once you know the type of procedure they recommend, the next question is how many have they done?" asks Robert W. Wysocki, MD, hand, wrist and elbow surgeon. "Surgical teams at Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush are so specialized, we perform the same type of surgeries day in and day out. And for surgery – especially complex surgeries – the more experience the better."

Q: What are their success rates?

A: "Hospitals and surgeons are required to report their success rates for every surgical procedure," explains Joel C. Williams, MD, orthopedic trauma surgeon. "So, it's important to ask your surgeon about his or her success rates. Surgical teams at Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush are very experienced and our success rates are among the best in the country. Which is one of the reasons why the orthopedic program at Rush is ranked among the nation's best by *U.S. News & World Report*."

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