

Who will be present in the operating room when I have my cervical herniated disc surgery

It is important for you to know who is going to be in the operating room during your surgery. In our operating room, of course we have the two surgeons. We have the neurosurgeon and the orthopedic surgeon, both operating. There is no one else doing the surgery on you. We have an anesthesiologist who is also an M.D., full time at the top of the head making sure that all the anesthesia _____ properly and monitoring it. We have a nurse who assists us called a scrub nurse who is scrubbed in meaning sterile, standing right next to us to give us instruments and to help us with the surgery and then we have a nurse who is not scrubbed in and is called a circulating nurse. We also have a technician to run the x-ray machine _____ and that is called a radiological technician or a technologist and we have our neurophysiologist who is monitoring the spinal cord function during the surgery, and because we are putting in implants, we have a representative from the company who makes the implants there. Some people think, "I do not want anybody from a company there," but actually you do because this is the person who knows the equipment, who has brought the equipment to our operating room, and can supply us with extra pieces if we need it; it is sort of like having a mechanic standing by. That person will absolutely have nothing to do with the surgery, will not be scrubbed in, will not touch the patient, but will be there to help us with the mechanical side of the surgery. Besides that, we do not really have anybody else coming in the operating room, any extra person really is a risk to you, adding to the risk of infection, so we try to keep the team small and everyone there is there to help you have a safe surgery and create a safe environment for you to be ____healed____.

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