

WHAT IS THE OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON

"There are two types of complete physicians in the United States. One has an M.D. (doctor of medicine) degree, and the other has a D.O. (doctor of osteopathic medicine) degree. So what's the difference?

Whether one becomes a D.O. or M.D., the route of complete medical training is basically the same. The difference is that the osteopathic physician receives additional training in what the osteopathic profession believes to be a most significant factor in comprehensive health care...

D.O.'s and M.D.'s are alike in that they both utilize all scientifically accepted methods of diagnosis and treatment, including the use of drugs and surgery. Educational requirements are the same, and osteopathic physicians are licensed to practice all phases of medicine in all of the 50 states of the Union.

Physicians and surgeons, D.O., do, however, have an additional dimension to their training and practice, one not taught in medical schools giving M.D. degrees. The D.O. recognizes that the musculoskeletal system (the muscle, bones and joints) make up over 60 percent of body mass. He or she also recognizes that all body systems, including the musculoskeletal system, are interdependent, and a disturbance in one causes altered function in other systems of the body. This interrelationship of body systems is effected through the nervous and circulatory systems. The emphasis on the relationship between body structure and organic functioning gives a broader base for the treatment of the patient as a unit. These concepts require a thorough understanding of anatomy and the development of special skills in recognizing (diagnosing) and correcting (treating) structural problems through manipulative therapy. Physicians and surgeons, D.O., use structural diagnosis and treatment to care effectively for patients and to relieve their distress..."

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