

Potential Conflicts of Interest

Physicians are patient advocates, so any potential conflict of interest is a concern to all of us at Mayfield. We try to avoid potential conflicts but some are unavoidable and others are desirable for the patient. For example, a surgeon's decision to recommend an operation rather than a non-operative approach can represent a financial conflict of interest even though the surgery is the best treatment option. Ownership in treatment or diagnostic facilities may also represent a potential conflict of interest. Participation by surgeons in the research and development of equipment and devices implanted into the body, such as spinal instrumentation and heart stents, represent additional potential conflicts of interest.

We have some of these types of relationships and believe they benefit our patients. For example, we have developed a spine surgery center, a free-standing MRI center and a radiosurgery center. These serve our patients in many ways. Our imaging center provides a seamless method of registration, processing and reporting of image results back to us. The spine surgery center is a state-of-the-art facility with specialized spine equipment and staff, a soothing environment and superior service. Our radiosurgery center provides sophisticated radiation treatments and expertise that are not available anywhere else in the region. Each of these services is provided at rates comparable to competitive services. Nonetheless, they can be viewed as potential conflicts.

Since its founding in 1937, the Mayfield Clinic has established a proud record of fulfilling its mission of patient care, research and teaching and has established a world leadership role in the high tech field of neurosurgery. As such, your surgeon may devote some of his time to traveling and training other surgeons in advanced surgical techniques or the use of implants. In doing so, he may be compensated for his efforts. Your surgeon also may

use implants or devices in your surgery that were manufactured by companies for which the surgeon has done research and received some compensation.

For example, the Mayfield Headrest, a device to stabilize the head during brain surgery, is used in practically every neurosurgery operating room throughout the world, and was developed by our founder, Dr. Frank Mayfield. These relationships could be viewed as potential conflicts, even though your surgeon believes these are superior alternatives to other approaches.

Please discuss these issues with your surgeon if you have questions or concerns regarding any of these matters. A complete list of the Mayfield Clinic's related financial relationships, or those of your specific Mayfield physician, is available upon request.



Mayfield Headrest