

Neurophysiology in Neurosurgery: A Modern Approach

Branch of the medical profession

For the restricted-scope form of alternative medicine practice, mostly outside of North America, see Osteopathy

Osteopathic medicine is a branch of the medical profession in the United States that promotes the practice of science-based medicine, often referred to in this context as allopathic medicine, with a set of philosophy and principles set by its earlier form, osteopathy. Osteopathic physicians (DOs) are licensed to practice medicine and surgery in all 50 US states. Only graduates of American osteopathic medical colleges may practice the full scope of medicine and surgery generally considered to be medicine by the general public[clarification needed]; US DO graduates have historically applied for medical licensure in 87 countries outside of the United States, 85 of which provided them with the full scope of medical and surgical practice. The field is distinct from osteopathic practices offered in nations outside of the U.S., whose practitioners are generally not considered part of core medical staff nor of medicine itself. The other major branch of medicine in the United States is referred to by practitioners of osteopathic medicine as allopathic medicine.[1]

By the middle of the 20th century, the profession had moved closer to mainstream medicine. American "osteopaths" became "osteopathic medical doctors," ultimately achieving full practice rights as medical doctors in all 50 states.[2][3]

In modern medicine in the U.S., any distinction between the MD and the DO professions has eroded steadily. The training of osteopathic physicians in the United States is now virtually indistinguishable from the training of "allopathic" physicians (MDs).[4] Osteopathic physicians attend four years of medical school like their MD counterparts, acquiring equivalent education in medicine and surgery; DOs also attend the same graduate medical education programs (ACGME-accredited residencies and/or fellowships) as their MD counterparts to acquire their license as physicians and surgeons. DOs use all conventional methods of diagnosis and treatment and practice across all specialties of medicine and surgery. Though still trained in osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT) during medical school,[5] the modern derivative of Andrew Taylor Still's techniques,[6][7] the majority of practicing physicians with a DO degree do not practice OMT in their daily work.[8] There are ongoing debates about the utility of maintaining separate, distinct pathways for educating physicians in the United States.[9][10]

Nomenclature [edit]

Physicians and surgeons who graduate from osteopathic medical schools are known as osteopathic physicians or osteopathic medical doctors.[3] Upon graduation, they are conferred a medical degree, the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO).[11][12][13]

Osteopathic curricula in other countries differ from those in the United States. European-trained practitioners of osteopathic manipulative techniques are

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referred to as "osteopaths": their scope of practice excludes most medical therapies and relies more on osteopathic manipulative medicine and alternative medical modalities.[14] While it was once common for DO graduates in the United States to refer to themselves as "osteopaths", this term is now considered archaic, and those holding the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree are commonly referred to as "osteopathic physicians," and they learn, train on, and practice the full scope of medicine and surgery.[15]

Demographics [edit]

[16] Physicians entering US workforce by education, 2005

Currently in 2018 there are 35 medical schools that offer DO Degrees in 55 locations[17] across the United States, while there are 141 accredited MD medical schools.[18]

In 1960, there were 13,708 physicians who were graduates of the 5 osteopathic medical schools.

In 2002, there were 49,210 physicians from 19 osteopathic medical schools.

Between 1980 and 2005, the number of osteopathic graduates per year increased over 150 percent from about 1,000 to 2,800. This number was expected to approach 5,000 by 2015. [19]

In 2016, there were 33 colleges of osteopathic medicine in 48 locations, in 31 [20] states. [21] One in four medical students in the United States is enrolled in an osteopathic medical school. [22]

states. One in four medical students in the United States is enrolled in an osteopathic medical school. As of 2018, there are more than 145,000 osteopathic medical physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students in the United States.[22]

[23][24]

Reference

[The Hidden Horrors of Psychiatry: Infiltrating the School System, Businesses and Your Home](#)

[Score Reliability: Contemporary Thinking on Reliability Issues](#)