



WHAT IS A GENERAL SURGEON?

A General Surgeon is a specialist who performs a variety of procedures not performed by any other specialty. It is the oldest specialty and as medicine became more complex other fields developed. Most specialties deal with a single body system. However, General Surgeons have to work within many different systems of the body. They perform the majority of endoscopic procedures in the province (such as colonoscopy) and the surgical treatment of:

- cancers involving the gastrointestinal tract, endocrine organs, breast and skin,
- emergent cases such as: appendicitis, cholecystitis, bowel obstruction and perforation,
- hernias of the abdominal wall,
- morbid obesity with comorbid conditions like diabetes, sleep apnea and osteoarthritis,
- multi-system trauma and critical care.



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**TRAINING
A GENERAL
SURGEON:
WHAT DOES
IT TAKE?**

**GENERAL
SURGEONS** 
OF BC



STRENGTHENING OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

YOUR SURGEON BELIEVES IN
SHARING THEIR KNOWLEDGE &
EXPERIENCE WITH STUDENTS &
RESIDENTS. THIS CONTRIBUTION
IS A VITAL STEP IN EDUCATING THE
NEXT GENERATION OF PHYSICIANS
& HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS.

TRANSFERRING SKILLS GAINED FROM EXPERIENCE

After obtaining an MD and becoming a licensed medical doctor, general surgeons do a minimum of 5 years further training in residency. This is similar to other specialties including cardiac surgery, neurosurgery, and orthopaedic surgery. It's an apprenticeship model of training; surgical trainees work alongside fully licensed surgeons with many years of experience. Skills are demonstrated and progressively transferred as the trainee becomes more proficient.



SHARING A FOCUS ON PATIENT CENTRED CARE

Both surgeon and trainee want you to receive the best care possible! Providing care that is respectful of individual patient needs is a principle they both share.

EMBRACING CURRENT KNOWLEDGE IN A RAPIDLY DEVELOPING FIELD

By being a mentor, your surgeon is ensuring that trainees gain the current knowledge and skills needed to provide the best care for future patients. However, effective patient care depends not only on the teaching of these fundamental surgical principles, but also welcoming new advances. Research collaboration between surgeons and trainees ensures both are at the forefront of medicine.



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