

KNOW YOUR “-OLOGIST”

The Neurofibromatosis journey is a lifelong one and you will meet many medical professionals along the way. It’s hard to remember what each one does but this list can help

AUDIOLOGIST

Specialist in the study of hearing, balance, and other auditory disorders. Primarily, audiologists provide professional patient-centred care which aims to minimise the adverse impacts of diseases in physical, mental, social, and psychological areas – thus contributing to a person’s overall wellbeing.

ANAESTHESIOLOGIST

As their name suggests, anaesthesiologists are physicians trained in anaesthesiology or the science of administering anaesthesia to patients before/ during surgery. Before (most) surgeries anaesthesia is given to either prevent/ relieve pain, or put them to sleep for the duration of an operation. *Pain Management Specialists* are medical doctors who help patients in pain management for chronic conditions.

CARDIOLOGIST

Treat illnesses associated with the cardiovascular system, which includes the heart and blood vessels. They also help their patients learn about their risk factors for heart disease and determine what treatment or procedure they should undergo. A *Paediatric Cardiologist* is a specialised physician within cardiology who treats and diagnoses heart complications in children

DERMATOLOGIST

Primarily focused on the diagnosis of conditions associated with the skin, hair and nails. Post-diagnosis, dermatologists provide ongoing treatments for a range of conditions - everything from acne treatment to anti-aging procedures.

ENDOCRINOLOGIST

Studies the diseases that affect the endocrine system which is responsible for secreting and regulating the body's hormone levels.

GASTROENTEROLOGIST

Focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the gastrointestinal (digestive) tract which include the stomach, small and large intestines, pancreas, and liver.

HAEMATOLOGIST

Specialises in the study of blood, blood-forming organs, and blood-related diseases.

MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEON / ORAL SURGEON

Maxillofacial Surgeons are dentists who trained in surgery of the mouth and jaw. These doctors specialise in treating and reconstructing areas of the face, head, or neck after an illness, injury or surgery.

MEDICAL GENETICIST

A medical geneticist is trained in general medicine, genetic diagnosis, and the treatment of patients with genetic disorders.

NEONATOLOGIST

This is a type of paediatrician who specialises in the medical care of newborn infants, particularly the critically ill, premature and full-time newborn infants.

NEUROLOGIST

Specialises in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases that affect the nervous system (brain, spinal cord, and the neurons). For instance, people who are dealing with problems with their senses may consult a neurologist because such problems may be a result of disorders in the nervous system(s). A *Clinical Neurophysiologist* is a specialist in neurology, someone who

diagnoses difficulties in the central, peripheral and autonomic nervous system(s) with the aid of electrophysiological tests.

NEUROSURGEON

Although they also deal with the diagnosis and treatment of nervous system disorders, like neurologists, neurosurgeons are licensed to operate and perform surgery on a patient's brain.

ONCOLOGIST

Specialise in the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer. There are four important sub-divisions within the Oncology profession, namely *medical oncologist* (chemotherapy or medications), *surgical oncologist* (surgical procedure of a variety of tumours), *radiation oncologist* (megavoltage X-rays or radionuclides) and *paediatric oncologist* (physician specialised in childhood cancer).

OPHTHALMOLOGIST

Unlike optometrists, who are also "eye doctors", ophthalmologists can perform surgeries in the eyes. And because they can perform operations on the eyes, they are considered as both medical and surgical specialists.

ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON / ORTHOPEDIST

Trained to diagnose, treat, and operate on patients with diseases and injuries of the musculoskeletal system (which includes the muscles, bones, ligaments, tendons, and the nerves). *Hand surgeons* specialise in performing surgery for hand-related injuries and complications.

OTOLARYNGOLOGIST (ALSO ENT SPECIALIST)

Specialises in managing and treating patients with various disorders of the **E**ar, **N**ose, and **T**hroat. In addition to that, they also diagnose diseases that affect related structures like the head and neck.

PAEDIATRICIAN

Focuses on infants, children and teenagers - management of the physical, emotional, and mental health. A *Developmental Paediatrician* specialises in treating children with disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy, down-syndrome, ADHD, etc.

PLASTIC SURGEON

Specialised medical doctors in surgery that improve a person's outlook such as surgery for a birth defect (e.g., cleft palate), or surgery following an injury or the removal of growths/ tumours/ cancers etc.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Helps people affected by injury, illness or disability through massage, heat treatment, stretch exercises, education, and advice rather than drugs or surgery. Also, they help patients to manage pain and prevent further difficulties.

PODIATRIST / CHIROPODIST

Devoted to the diagnosis, and medical and surgical treatment of disorders of the foot, ankle and lower extremity.

PSYCHIATRIST

Unlike typical physicians who spend most of their time in the medical field, psychiatrists tend to occupy a more frequent place in the research field. Instead of examining the physical attributes of a person, a psychiatrist studies and tries to interpret his/ her patient's behaviour and cognitive process.

RADIOLOGIST

Specially trained to diagnose and treat their patients by interpreting test results from medical imaging techniques. Such techniques include X-rays, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT) scan, and positron emission tomography (PET).

UROLOGIST

Specialises in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders that affect the male and female urinary tract.

VASCULAR SURGEON

Medical physicians who specialise in the diagnosis, medical management, and surgical treatment of diseases with / within the blood vessels (vascular diseases).