

Perfection for Every Patient

FROM SMALL SURGERIES TO LAST HOPE PROCEDURES, DR. DAVID DUPREE WIELDS PASSION AND TALENT UNDER THE KNIFE.

It was in medical school that Dr. David Dupree first discovered a passion for surgery. "It felt so natural," he recalls of making the first cut on a cadaver. "I knew this was it." Throughout medical school, on his own time, he did dissections of cadavers for anatomy classes.

Dr. Dupree brings that passion and talent to his solo practice in Red Bank, New Jersey, where he's a general surgeon specializing in hernia, abdominal, and robotic surgeries. His is one of the few remaining private practices, and he's obsessive about his patients' care, handling everything from preoperative evaluation to postoperative check-ups. "If you operate on someone, you should see it to the finish line," he reasons. In the operating room, he alone preps every patient, straightens every wrinkle in the drapes, and applies every bandage. For Dr. Dupree, anything less is unacceptable.

Procedures Big and Small

These days, going under the knife doesn't have to be a traumatic experience. Robotic surgery has changed the field—and no one knows this better than Dr. Dupree. An early adopter of the practice, he was New Jersey's first master surgeon in robotics. He's since performed upwards of 1,000 robotic surgeries and has trained a number of surgeons.

Patients feel the difference. Before robotic surgery, a manual laborer undergoing surgery for a hernia might take six weeks to recover. Today, it's five days, and no opioids are needed. A non-manual laborer can recover in a weekend.

It's so easy, says Dr. Dupree, that it makes getting rid of little "lumps



David J. Dupree, MD, FACS

and bumps" a no-brainer. "It's always better to take care of hernias sooner rather than later," he says. "They are easier to fix with one stitch today before they grow into something else tomorrow."

But it's the complicated surgeries that really drive him. "I have a passion for fixing problems," he says. Emergency surgeries often go to Dr.

Dupree. His colleagues at the hospital coined the phrase, "You, me, and Dupree at 3 [a.m.]."

He remembers one patient who came to him after a complication from a previous surgery.

The man was leaking stool from his abdomen. Everyone told him he couldn't be fixed. "I took

it all down and put it back together in 11 hours," Dr. Dupree remembers. "The guy got his life back."

Patients don't forget Dr. Dupree. They bring him gestures of gratitude, like vegetables from their gardens. One former patient drops off donuts every Friday. Dr. Dupree is grateful for his patients and for having found

his calling. "When you find your passion," he says, "you almost always find answers to life's questions."



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