

Meet our new neurosurgeon — *Joseph Cheatle, MD*

▶ **JOSEPH CHEATLE, MD, DESCRIBES HIS WORK AS A NEUROSURGEON AS “A CALLING,” AND SAYS HE BECAME INTERESTED IN NEUROSURGERY WHILE WORKING WITH A COUPLE OF HIS MENTORS IN MEDICAL SCHOOL. “I SAW THE EXTREME BENEFITS YOU COULD PROVIDE TO PATIENTS,” HE SAYS. “YOU’RE ABLE TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES. I KNEW I WANTED TO WORK IN THAT FIELD. IT’S A UNIQUE AND RARE THING, BEING A NEUROSURGEON. TO BE ABLE TO HELP PEOPLE IN SUCH A DRAMATIC WAY IS JUST AWE-INSPIRING; THESE ARE LIFE-CHANGING SURGERIES. I SEE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUFFERED FROM DEBILITATING EPILEPSY BECOME SEIZURE-FREE. PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD A STROKE OR A LIFE-THREATENING BRAIN TUMOR CAN BE COMPLETELY CURED. IT’S JUST AMAZING!”**

Grand Strand Medical Center is pleased to welcome Dr. Cheatle and the passion and enthusiasm he brings to Grand Strand Spine & Neuro Center. Dr. Cheatle is trained to perform a full range of neurological procedures, but focuses on cranial procedures such as those used to treat brain tumors, epilepsy, stroke and head trauma. ✨

He also performs a variety of spinal surgeries such as those to treat spinal fractures or reduce pain in patients who have pain that radiates down an arm or a leg.

Years of training to gain expertise

A native of Virginia, Dr. Cheatle spent many years in Nebraska training to become a neurosurgeon.

He earned his undergraduate degree and medical degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where he also completed his internship and residency.

Dr. Cheatle was also attracted by the technical requirements of being a neurosurgeon. “I operate on structures that are so small, you can’t even see the sutures without a microscope,” he explains. “The amount of precision and mental concentration it takes is always a challenge; it never becomes routine. Every patient and every brain is different. Each blood vessel, aneurysm and brain tumor is different. There’s a new challenge every day, and it helps ground me.”

Neurosurgeons use special equipment that enables them to perform surgery on any part of the brain. An operative scope is a sterile microscope used to magnify the image of the area on which the neurosurgeon is operating. An endoscope, which can be inserted through the nose, is a device with a light and a camera attached that gives the neurosurgeon a panoramic view inside the brain.

Concerns? See a professional

Unlike many other aspects of health where lifestyle choices have a huge influence, Dr. Cheatle says, “Much of what we see in neurosurgery doesn’t have controllable risk factors. There is not a lot of preventive medicine for neurological diseases.” He does, however, stress the need to

*Learn more
about neurosurgery*

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Cheatle, contact Grand Strand Spine & Neuro Center at **(843) 449-2336**.



take action if a problem crops up. “People should remember that if a concern ever arises, they should get it checked out right away. With stroke, receiving immediate care is critical to a good recovery.”

Dr. Cheatle and his wife have two children, ages 3 and 4. The family enjoys spending time outdoors, whether hiking in the mountains or walking on the beach.

