

One Question: Still want to be a Hand Surgeon?

If you could do it all over again...

Answer Options	Absolutely
would you still be a hand surgeon?	121
	Probably
	43
	Not sure
	13
Why?	
	<i>answered question</i>
	<i>skipped question</i>

Number	Response Date	Why?
1	11/14/2008 22:28:00	Horrible lifestyle relative to other orthopaedic subspecialties and we're uniquely exposed to being taken advantage of by our non-hand surgery colleagues. Still, by far the most fascinating, challenging and clinically rewarding subspecialty.
2	11/14/2008 23:19:00	The best career choice in Medicine. While I am sure I could have made more money doing something else, I can't think of any other job that I would enjoy that would allow me to help people.
3	11/14/2008 23:19:00	I like the complexity and the variety of the cases and I don't mind listening to the complaints that hand patients have compared to other plastic surgery patients. And you get to sit while operating!
4	11/15/2008 00:42:00	I love it, i'm good at it, i'm helping people, it's respected, it's recession resistant...what's not to like? Is it perfect? No, but nothing real is.
5	11/15/2008 00:42:00	I love the discipline and my patients, but the sacrifices are very great.
6	11/15/2008 01:35:00	it has allowed me to figure out why people have hand pain with typing/ cell phones / writing
7	11/15/2008 01:35:00	it has allowed me to figure out why people have hand pain with typing/ cell phones / writing
8	11/15/2008 02:01:00	I would not be a physician, I would be PA or nurse anesthetist. Less call, less headaches, less responsibility, more free time, and decent money

9	11/15/2008 02:04:00	always interesting- diverse pathology, wide range of ages- only draw back has been belittled by general ortho as "not real orthopaedics"
10	11/15/2008 02:12:00	too demanding on time, too much stress, not enough money to justify it
11	11/15/2008 02:14:00	I wouldn't have met Angie Legaspi otherwise.
12	11/15/2008 02:24:00	Special niche has been valuable in service and challenging with continued need present as senior level of live approaches.
13	11/15/2008 02:37:00	i enjoy it, it's personally rewarding, i'm proud to do something that helps people
14	11/15/2008 02:41:00	It has provided an incredibly fulfilling career.
15	11/15/2008 02:53:00	greatest job in the world and you get paid for it
16	11/15/2008 03:07:00	I enjoy what I do and help most people I see.
17	11/15/2008 03:08:00	worst pay, bad hours, few new hand surgeons in pipeline due to horrible pay, technically demanding(good thing) but no appreciation of difficulty with respect to reimbursement.
18	11/15/2008 03:11:00	I don't like the stress and the potential for losing what I own because of liability. Otherwise, I'd say absolutely.
19	11/15/2008 03:13:00	nothing substantial has changed in twenty years
20	11/15/2008 03:20:00	Wouldn't be a doctor at all. Too much paperwork. Too much insurance/government interference. Shrinking reimbursements. Rising costs.
21	11/15/2008 03:43:00	The challenge the satisfaction you operate sitting down
22	11/15/2008 04:03:00	I enjoy the patient contact the constantly increasing knowledge base working with my partners and knowing that I have made a difference in the lives of others.....really.
23	11/15/2008 04:17:00	Poor reimbursement relative to other orthopaedic specialties with potentially improved quality of life (less call.)
24	11/15/2008 04:28:00	Blessed to have the opportunity to do so!
25	11/15/2008 04:29:00	intricate, not stressful, adresses multiple tissues pathology and injuries, more predictable outcomes, very interesting, operate while i am sitting, patients are usually thankful, results are rewarding

26	11/15/2008 04:41:00	Hand surgery is intellectually stimulating, physically challenging and artistically pleasing. Treating and helping people gave me a great feeling of satisfaction. Those things keep me involved even now, on a part time basis with our medical school even though I was glad to retire from the full time "rat race" of private practice with its ever increasing administrative and bureaucratic requirements to get decreasing reimbursement
27	11/15/2008 05:06:00	I am not sure I would be a doctor. The administrative hassle factor and other nonmedical aspects of being a physician are daily demoralizing factors.
28	11/15/2008 05:32:00	Very rewarding, both emotionally and financially
29	11/15/2008 05:44:00	Low reimbursement, no break-through technology, insoluble work comp problems.
30	11/15/2008 06:24:00	no better job in the world
31	11/15/2008 07:10:00	I began my training more than 40 years ago and can today not think of anything being more fascinating to deal with than the hand and upper extremity: a most wonderful functional anatomy and an endless diversity of problems to be solved.
32	11/15/2008 08:22:00	hand function is important for daily activities
33	11/15/2008 11:40:00	i probably would not become a doctor but if i were a doctor, i would be a hand surgeon
34	11/15/2008 12:05:00	I never want to see another infected total hip or knee again! Honestly, it's the variety of patients of all ages, and the impact you make on lives. Ultimately, hands turn out to be pretty damn important!
35	11/15/2008 12:57:00	great subspecialty in Orthopaedics. Varied surgical procedures. Great anatomy/
36	11/15/2008 13:03:00	It's fun and an intellectual challenge. Also, hand and reconstructive surgery are a buffer for me as a plastic surgeon when the economy is weak
37	11/15/2008 13:39:00	Truly applied anatomy. Very congenial group. Get to work sitting down.
38	11/15/2008 13:55:00	Love doing it, love doing it well, hope to do it to 70 years old and beyond if God allows
39	11/15/2008 14:54:00	I would not have gone into medicine.
40	11/15/2008 15:01:00	love my job
41	11/15/2008 15:52:00	Very amusing and interesting, work in progress, very few Hand Surgeons
42	11/15/2008 16:02:00	80% of the time its fun and they pay me to do it

43	11/15/2008 16:28:00	I wouldn't even be an M.D. I gave up Harvard business school, and a career in finance to use my mental and physical skills to benefit my peers because I could do well for myself and my family and do good as well. The only thing left is endless liability and no reward. Worst decision I ever made.
44	11/15/2008 16:34:00	the hassle of medicine, long hours away from family,
45	11/15/2008 17:19:00	high overhead and decreasing reimbursement
46	11/15/2008 20:51:00	It is intellectually and technically stimulating.
47	11/15/2008 21:19:00	love the work
48	11/16/2008 00:05:00	Not sure if I would go into medicine. If I did go into medicine, I would still be a hand surgeon.
49	11/16/2008 00:15:00	Surgeons, as a group, are mechanistic in their approach to patient's chief complaints. With experience I have discovered that the psycho/social aspects of a patients illness are just as important as the anatomic derangements.
50	11/16/2008 02:09:00	genuine ability to interventionally help people
51	11/16/2008 04:58:00	I love what I do, but i hate being second-guessed by those powers who have no knowledge and have all the purse strings.
52	11/16/2008 06:39:00	I enjoy what I do most of the time. The problem is the rest of the time, I really do not enjoy the things I do.... and, you are catching me on a weekend when I am on general ortho call at a level 1 facility..... can't wait for the time when I can get out of this arrangement!
53	11/16/2008 13:28:00	Hand Surgery, demands a personality that enjoys the delicate and difficult, and I have found it a perfect match!
54	11/16/2008 16:31:00	Still gratifying
55	11/16/2008 16:48:00	late nights draining puss; no representation from our parent organization which results in less reimbursement for hand surgeons; yet another reason we need our own board
		When I began practice, my residency training (OS) had not prepared me for the many and intriguing problems in the hand surgery realm. As this lack became more frustrating, I decided to seek additional training in hand surgery, but such was not available at the time. When it became available to me, it provided me with the tools for a lifelong fulfilling career, which still excites me at the age of 84. What could be more satisfying?

56	11/16/2008 18:02:00	Enjoy the work, people, and patients. Hate the arbitrary aspect of insurers. If I didn't enjoy the work, I would have left a long time ago
57	11/16/2008 19:55:00	Professions with less busy call and better reimbursement/ hour of work are now looking better as I'm getting older! My friend;s in Radiology, anesthesia, and insurance are much less tired/stressed than most orthopaedic/hand surgeons that I know!
58	11/16/2008 21:17:00	It was too difficult to get where I am now, only to be questioned & second-guessed from every faction--patient, insurance, government--handcuffed in decision-making with legal pressure on top of it, price fixing under the help of the government, for the public good... & all I wanted to do was surgery to improve my patients' hands!
59	11/16/2008 22:37:00	Wide variety of patients and problems with an enormous need for specialty training. Most hand surgeons are personable and enjoy teaching, making it contagious. (There are 3 generations of orthopaedists in my family.)
60	11/17/2008 00:41:00	it's fun
61	11/17/2008 00:46:00	I get to make a difference in the lives of patients every day.
62	11/17/2008 02:44:00	I love what I do. Can't wait to get to "work" every day.
63	11/17/2008 02:46:00	Very fulfilling way to invest ones humanity.
64	11/17/2008 03:34:00	Interesting, rewarding occupation that allowed meeting and helping a diverse spectrum of people and the hand/arm is just such an interesting, magnificent creation/structure it is just fascinating, and hand surgeons, I think, get to understand and appreciate that at a level that no one else can.
65	11/17/2008 04:13:00	I love the variety of procedures that I do from one week to the next.
66	11/17/2008 05:31:00	To be the one invited into the interstitium of one's soul is so exhilarating.
67	11/17/2008 06:05:00	It has enrich my life. Be friend to so many outstanding and clever people around the world
68	11/17/2008 12:14:00	Within the field of medicine, I'd probably be a hand surgeon, but with retrospect, I'd probably have done something other than medicine if I could do it all over again.
69	11/17/2008 13:05:00	I like the appreciation I get from taken care of patients.

70	11/17/2008 13:44:00	poor quality of life, low reimbursement, too much regulation, call schedule burden, etc
		If I was going to be a doctor I would definitely be a hand surgeon because I love the scope of my practice and the mix of office and surgical work. I think the real question is whether I would choose to be a doctor again in today's changing reimbursement, regulatory, and litigious climate and I sadly suspect the answer to that question is no. I have certainly steered my daughter who has interests in medicine but also political science in the political science direction.
71	11/17/2008 14:01:00	Steve Drukker
72	11/17/2008 16:14:00	I enjoy the work.
73	11/17/2008 16:30:00	Love my job
74	11/17/2008 17:28:00	If you have to think about this question, your in the wrong field.
75	11/17/2008 17:46:00	Great lifestyle, great anatomy. Best of all, you can spend most of the day sitting on your butt!
76	11/17/2008 18:55:00	I love it
77	11/17/2008 20:58:00	I have had a practice limited to hand and upper extremity surgery for 35 years with complete professional satisfaction; The business end is another story.
78	11/17/2008 20:59:00	Call, night work, time away from my family.
79	11/18/2008 01:59:00	it is a great life style and I very much enjoy the work.
80	11/18/2008 06:43:00	This specialty offers the most diverse set of pathology, with challenges unlike any other specialty in orthopedics
81	11/18/2008 13:55:00	the technical, aesthetic and functional aspects of restoring hand function provide a distinct challenge and reward unlike other aspects of medicine and surgery...but my definition of being a hand surgeon includes the entire upper extremity.
82	11/18/2008 15:10:00	there is no other profession that seems more appealing & no other subspecialty more gratifying than hand surgery.
83	11/18/2008 16:45:00	Always interesting, great anatomy.
84	11/18/2008 17:01:00	It has been a pleasure to take care of these patients, enjoy colleagues, and meetings
85	11/18/2008 19:08:00	It's interesting and I get to sit down whe I operate.
86	11/18/2008 19:50:00	Job security.
87	11/18/2008 20:44:00	It's fitted me perfectly. It's been fulfilling and I've helped others along the way.

88	11/19/2008 18:26:00	b/c I love it!!
89	11/19/2008 23:08:00	A rewarding subspeciality.
90	11/20/2008 01:56:00	Trying to parent (not just hire two nannies), be in a group practice & take call is not working out now. I now "pay" to spend time with my family (I work part time, pay to not take call -- and last quarter barely broke even.) Despite this, I really do like hand surgery - and still find it extremely captivating.
91	11/20/2008 05:30:00	Doctors are hurt less in a recession/depression and a hand surgery is probably the best aspect of Orthopaedics.
92	11/24/2008 01:28:00	Great variety, intellectually challenging, great society(ASSH)
93	12/15/2008 03:22:00	it has been the most fun and challenging area of medicine(and orthopaedics)