

***Neurosurgical Focus* Readers' Forum Guidelines**

To help you gain the most from *Neurosurgical Focus* (www.thejns.com) and its affiliated Readers' Forum, below are some general guidelines for participating in our Readers' Forum. Participation in the *Neurosurgical Focus* Readers' Forum means acceptance of the Readers' Forum Guidelines shown below. We reserve the right to modify them at any time. Terms and conditions should be checked periodically for changes. By using this site after changes have been posted, you have agreed to the terms and conditions and accept those changes, whether or not you have reviewed them.

1. Definitions. For purposes of this internet forum, the following definitions shall apply:
 - (a) "AANS": American Association of Neurological Surgeons.
 - (b) "JNS": *Journal of Neurosurgery* (www.thejns.com).
 - (c) "JNSPG": Journal of Neurosurgery Publishing Group.
 - (d) "Forum": Any Readers' Forum, or message board, affiliated with or operated by the AANS and/or the JNSPG.
 - (e) "Message": Any post, information, statement, image, or other means of communication made by a User on the Forum.
 - (f) "User": Any individual or entity that participates on the Forum, regardless of whether said individual or entity posts a Message.
2. Messages Are For Publication. Messages will become public on the Forum. Your text will be available to anyone with an internet connection. All Messages are created for the purpose of being published on the Internet and all Messages are provided for use on the Internet through the Forum. All Users consent to their Messages being published on the Internet and any language to the contrary contained in a Message will not be acknowledged.
3. Compliance with HIPAA. All Users acknowledge and warrant that any Message or internet link contained within a Message posted on this Forum does not disclose private and confidential patient information. Further, all

Users acknowledge and warrant that any Message or internet link contained within a Message complies with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

4. The Forum Is Not A Doctor. The information contained on the Forum cannot replace or substitute for the services of trained professionals in any field. In particular, you should regularly consult a doctor in all matters relating to physical health, particularly concerning any symptoms that may require diagnosis or medical attention. NEVER rely on information or opinions exchanged via the Messages to replace necessary, personal consultation(s) with qualified health or medical professionals to meet your individual health or medical needs.
5. Editor's Rights. This Forum reflects diverse topics of discussion. We hope that you enjoy lively discussions while adhering to the guidelines set forth herein. We do not want to censor Messages based on the opinions expressed within a Message, but we will enforce the policies outlined herein. We reserve the right to post, not post, remove, not remove, or modify Messages at our discretion and without explanation. We reserve the right to publish, screen, remove, edit, withdraw, or postpone any Message considered to be obscene, lewd, violent, harassing, or otherwise objectionable and not in accord with the purposes of this Forum, whether or not such material is constitutionally protected. Although we are not responsible for the content on the Forum, we reserve the right to remove any Message that, in our judgment, does not meet these guidelines.

We invite and encourage a healthy exchange of opinions. If you disagree with a User's Message, by all means, challenge the opinion but do so with a sense of respect and caring for the other person. Name-calling, insults, and attacks are not appropriate and will not be tolerated. Agree to disagree in a respectful manner.

6. Not The Opinions of The AANS, JNSPG or *Neurosurgical Focus*. The AANS and the JNSPG do not control or endorse the content found on the Forum and, therefore, the AANS and the JNSPG specifically disclaim any liability with regard to the content on the Messages and any actions resulting from your participation on the Forum. We in no way verify any statement of fact or opinion provided by a User in this Forum. Although we are not responsible for any content in the Forum, the AANS and the JNSPG reserve the right at all times to disclose any information necessary to satisfy any applicable law, regulation, legal process or governmental request, or to edit, refuse to post, or to remove any information, Message or materials in this Forum, in whole or in part, that in our judgment, does not meet our guidelines.
7. English Only. All Messages are limited to the English language. This includes posts, titles, signatures, and any attachments or other forms of

public display. Additionally, these guidelines apply to all Users, regardless of the User's residence or citizenship.

8. Commercial Messages Prohibited. You may not post any message that is commercial by nature. Do not post commercial messages or solicitations on the Forum. Messages containing commercial or product/service promotional messages-including, but not limited to, references to Internet sites, URLs, or links to other commercial websites - will not be posted or will be removed.
9. Public Forum. Bear in mind that the Forum is "public," and other Users will have access to your posted material and might copy, modify or distribute it. By submitting or posting content here, you are representing that you are the owner of such material or have authorization to distribute it. Once you post content on this Forum, you expressly grant to the AANS and the JNSPG the complete right to use, reproduce, modify, distribute, etc., the content in any form, anywhere.
10. Do Not Repeat Messages. Do not post the same Message more than once on the Forum.
11. Intellectual Property. By submitting or posting content here, you are representing that you are the owner of such material or have authorization to distribute it. Information that is copyrighted or owned by any individual or entity other than the User should not be posted on the Forum without the consent of the owner. Users will be held legally liable for any Message posted to this website or on the Forum, and may be held legally accountable if the Message they post include(s) material that infringes any patent, trademark, trade secret, copyright or any other intellectual property or the proprietary right(s) of any person or entity. If such an event occurs, the individual posting the information will be held solely responsible. The AANS and the JNSPG will not be held responsible for User-posted information that may violate intellectual property laws.
12. Prepublication. Messages on the Internet and on this Forum are considered prepublication by many scientific journals and societies. The AANS, JNSPG and *Neurosurgical Focus* assume no responsibility for the copyright status of any and all submissions published on the Forum, and make no inquiries pertaining to pre-publication, plagiarism or any third-party rights which may apply.
13. Attachments. Please do not include attachments to Messages posted on the Forum. Messages containing attachments of any kind will not be posted on the Forum.
14. Termination of The Forum. We reserve the right to terminate or discontinue this Forum for any reason without warning to Users.