



Pathology

The doctors' doctor



Years of Training in the U.S.:

- 4 years university/college
- 4 years medical school
- 4 years residency (or 5 for pediatric neurologist)
- optional 1-2 year fellowship

Necessary skills:

- detail oriented
- good focus
- enjoy looking at details in microscope

WHAT IS PATHOLOGY?

Pathology is the study of the cause and effects of disease. Pathologists analyze samples of tissue, blood, or other specimens to determine the cause of a problem and help the treating physician understand the diagnosis and treatment options in the particular situation. Pathologists are called the doctors' doctor because they rarely interact with patients. Instead, they work with the treating physician.

DISEASES and CONDITIONS

Pathologists look at blood and tissue to diagnose problems. There are a wide number of conditions they understand including blood conditions, cancers of organs, microbiology (germs), genetic pathology (genetic markers of disease), neuropathology (nervous system), skin abnormalities (rashes, cancers), and chemical pathology (substances in fluids including poisons).

DAILY WORK LIFE

Pathologists work in labs, which can be private labs, community labs, hospital labs, or government labs. They typically will focus quietly on their work without a lot of interactions with other people.