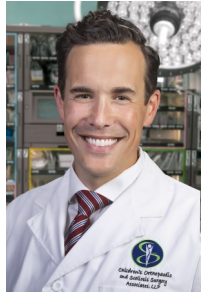


## Know Your Surgeon



Dr. Fitzgerald



Dr. Hahn

Dr. Ryan Fitzgerald joined the practice in September 2022. He is an active member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the Florida Orthopaedic Society, and the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America. He also actively participates in Scoliosis Research Society. His special interest is scoliosis.

Dr. Greg Hahn has been with the practice since September 1999. He is an active member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the Florida Orthopaedic Society, and the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America. He also actively participates in Scoliosis Research Society. His special interest is scoliosis.

Drs. Fitzgerald and Hahn have performed over 1,300 scoliosis surgeries to date. Combined, they have over 30 years experience performing scoliosis surgery. Scoliosis surgeries are performed anywhere from 4-6 times per week. For the safety of the patient and the combined expertise of the physicians, all spinal surgeries are performed together by both Drs. Hahn and Fitzgerald.

## Understanding Your Scoliosis Surgery

### Surgery

The surgical treatment of idiopathic scoliosis is usually reserved for curves that have progressed beyond 40 to 45 degrees. If left untreated, continued progression of these curves may lead to chronic severe pain, deformity, psychosocial disability and pulmonary dysfunction.

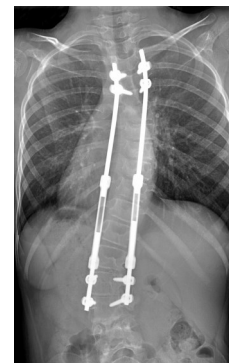
### Pedicle Screws

- Pedicle screws are used to anchor the correcting rods to prevent further movement while the spine is being fused with bone grafts.
- The screws are used to correct rotation as well as to treat deformity in the coronal and sagittal planes.
- The pedicle screws can be placed at multiple levels throughout the spine depending on the severity of the curve. The rods are then connected to the pedicle screws.



### Growing Rods

- The rods are placed through the muscles around spine spanning the curve and are attached with screws.
- Growing rods allow for continued controlled growth of the spine in juvenile patients with scoliosis.
- The rods are then lengthened on a regular basis, approximately every 6 months.



### What To Expect

#### Pre-Operative Office Visit

- X-rays will be taken in the office to assist in planning your surgery and determine how much flexibility your spine has.
- Details of the surgery will be discussed so you know what to expect.
- The surgeon will obtain a comprehensive history and physical to include all other health conditions, any current medications (over the counter or prescribed) and allergies or bad reaction to medications, latex, etc.
- Consent is signed to perform the surgery.
- Blood may need to be donated for your surgery. This will be done approximately one month before surgery, along with a CT Scan. Our staff will give you a prescription and let you know where to get these done.

#### Pre-Operative Hospital Visit

- Blood and urine tests will be ordered to make sure you are healthy and have no infections.
- A tour of the hospital will be given.
- You will meet with pain management specialist to discuss how they will effectively keep you comfortable after surgery.
- You will be admitted the day of your surgery.

#### After Surgery

- After surgery, plan to be in the hospital for 1-3 days. Every case is different and your stay may be shorter or longer depending on the severity of your surgery.
- You will follow-up in the office about 3 weeks post-operatively unless your physician feels otherwise.

## The Guidance System

Drs. Fitzgerald and Hahn utilize advanced spinal navigation technology called The Guidance System during scoliosis surgery. This innovative technology provides detailed, real-time visualization of the spine and assists with the precise placement of spinal instrumentation during complex procedures.

The Guidance System is the first spine navigation software to receive FDA clearance for use in pediatric patients ages 13 and older. It streamlines the surgical process from preoperative planning through navigation and execution in the operating room.

This technology enhances safety and accuracy while helping minimize unnecessary radiation exposure. It also assists the surgeons in selecting the appropriate size and placement of instrumentation for each individual patient.

Dr. Fitzgerald considers this technology a "game-changer" in pediatric spine surgery because of its potential to improve outcomes while reducing risk for pediatric patients. The use of advanced technologies such as The Guidance System reflects our continued commitment to providing the highest level of care for children with scoliosis.

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## Idiopathic Scoliosis Surgery

