



top doctors

The best in IO specialties.

BY TARA BEHAN | Photographs by Shane McCauley

→ No one likes being sick. But as residents of the Main Line and the western suburbs, we have something to feel good about: our first-class doctors, who can treat anything from annoying allergies to life-threatening diseases. We surveyed more than 1,000 physicians in Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties, asking them to name their doctors of choice in 10 specialties. Those profiled on the following pages may fall under different areas of expertise, but they all see the health of their patients as a No. 1 priority. And you can't ask for much more from a Top Doctor.



Dr. Richard Tipperman: OPHTHALMOLOGY

40 Monument Road, Fifth Floor, Bala Cynwyd, (610) 664-8880
Education: University of Rochester School of Medicine
Residency: Wills Eye Hospital

→ Though he's never ridden a horse competitively, Dr. Richard Tipperman has a blue ribbon from the Devon Horse Show hanging in his Bala Cynwyd office. It was a gift from a teenage patient who suffered a traumatic cataract when her eye was hit by an air bag in a car accident. Other ophthalmologists told the girl she'd be blind in one eye and never ride horses again. Then she came to see Tipperman.

The rider's cataract surgery was a success, and she regained 20/20 vision. She then went on to win her first blue ribbon. "When I received this in the mail from her, that's the best thanks I could've ever received," says Tipperman.

It's just this sort of happy ending that encouraged Tipperman to choose ophthalmology as a specialty. "When I was in medical school, I considered neurosurgery," he says. "Ophthalmology is just a happier field. I love seeing patients get well again."

Tipperman's practice is primarily surgical, with a focus on repairing eye injuries, cataract surgery, correction of complications from cataract surgery and refractive surgery (LASIK). He encounters many anxious patients—and he understands their fears. "Our eyes are how we react and relate with the outside world," he says.

Although most of Tipperman's cataract patients are older, you can develop the condition at any age. The good news is that ultrasound technology and smaller incisions are enabling patients to recover faster. Laser vision correction still remains extremely popular, and LASIK technology has improved remarkably since Tipperman started doing refractive surgery in 1991.

Whether it's necessary or elective, no surgery is minor for Tipperman. "I never take for granted that patients put their trust in me," he says. "I want the surgery to be perfect so their vision is the best it can be."