

# Why Didn't My Neurologist Tell Me About the Omega™ Procedure?



**MIGRAINE**  
TREATMENT CENTERS OF AMERICA

At Migraine Treatment Centers of America, we are often asked, “Why didn’t my neurologist tell me about the Omega Procedure?” First, some neurologists do tell their patients about the Omega Procedure. In fact, one of our Omega surgeons is a neurologist, but clearly many neurologists are not telling their patients about us. There are probably at least three reasons for this:

## The Omega Procedure just may not occur to them.

With some exceptions, the surgeons who perform the Omega Procedure are not neurologists. They are “Pain Management Specialists.” This is a real medical discipline. The surgeons are real, board-certified M.D.s and D.O.s who went to the same medical schools as all other doctors. Your neurologist is certainly aware of Pain Management, but he or she may not think of it while they research your treatment options.

## Your neurologist may favor the pharmaceutical solution.

There are literally hundreds, if not thousands, of drugs aimed specifically at relieving migraine pain. You’ve probably tried some of them. They range from the relatively light Excedrin Migraine to Botox to heavy triptans like Imitrex and Treximet. And new drugs come out each month. Your neurologist may want to exhaust all of those options before trying a surgical solution.

## Your neurologist may be concerned with short-term costs.

The Omega Procedure is not free, and your neurologist may be unaware that most private insurers cover it. The procedure often ends up saving patients a significant amount of money in the long-run (due to ending their reliance on medication, doctor’s visits, and their increased ability to work), but your neurologist may favor the slow drip of medication’s cost over the one-time cost of a procedure.

**To be clear: most private insurers will pay for the Omega Procedure, but some—including Medicare, Medicaid, and TriCare—will not. We wish this was not the case, but it is for now.** If you have Medicare, Medicaid, or TriCare as your primary or secondary insurance, it is unlikely that the Omega Procedure will be covered. You are welcome to call and try, but that is the unfortunate truth at this time. Please check back periodically—we follow Medicare’s evolving position and hope they adequately cover the procedure soon!

## TO SUM UP...

Many neurologists do refer their migraine patients to us, but many do not, and for valid reasons. The reasons they don’t tend to range from:

**JUST NOT THINKING ABOUT IT to FAVORING DRUG THERAPY to CONCERNS OVER COST.**

We all have to advocate on our own behalf to get the care we need. If your neurologist believes you should keep trying non-surgical solutions, you have the right to a different opinion. Simply give us a call and we will be happy to address any concerns you may have and see if you are a candidate for the procedure. Remember, you are the one in pain. This decision, ultimately, is yours.

**A friendly, knowledgeable Patient Coordinator can be reached 24/7 at 855.300.6822.**