

Monday, August 29, 2005

What IS my destiny?

So, vascular surgery is over, and I'm actually sad about it. They really liked me a lot, and on Sunday after morning rounds, one of the attendings called me into his office. He started out by telling me that I did a great job, and then he told me that surgery is my destiny, and that I'm so good at it that not doing it would deprive the world of my surgical skills. On the one hand, this is a really wonderful thing to hear from someone who is clearly very quick to judge students. Hearing that I'm smart and hard working and talented is always really wonderful, and I'm glad that my work and studying have paid off. I went to my boyfriend's house later that day, and told him about what the doctor had said. He thinks it is great that they liked me so much too, but he asked me, "Are you sure THAT is your destiny? What about other things?" He's referring to the fact that I'm the kind of person who has always known that I want to get married and have children. I would like those things to happen sooner rather than later, I want to be young enough to really enjoy my kiddos, and although I'm sure child care will be a part of my life, I want to be around enough to watch my babies grow. I thought it was funny that my boyfriend, who hates thinking about babies and weddings, was the one reminding me of this! I DO like surgery, perhaps vascular in particular because the patients have very complex medical histories that need to be taken into consideration when planning for major operations. But do I LOVE surgery enough for it to be my life--more so than family? During our conversation, the attending mentioned another female surgeon at our school who I really like. She's tough but fair, is great at teaching med students, and really nice to her patients. She is 42 and just had her kids, by IVF. This is not how I dream of my future. I'm trying to keep my options open, and I have many other rotations to come. We'll see...In sock pal news, I've been scrambling to catch up after not knitting for the first 6 weeks of my clerkship. I made it this far:And then realized that I was totally delusional, and that the sock would only fit a midget. OOPS! Frogged that one and started again with this, one size up on the needles (2 instead of 1):Gotta stay focused on this, I can't ask for an extension, can I??

Posted by Mia in Medical School at 19:54

I knew you'd make a talented surgeon, but let's not forget that you also have amazing people skills that would also make you a wonderful family doctor or something else that's a little less of a pressure cooker. I'm guessing the doctors in every rotation are going to tell you you're remarkable and their field is your destiny! But hey, I also have a 45-year-old friend who gave birth to perfectly healthy twins last year with no IVF or anything. So it's probably okay to put some of those other things on the back burner for a little longer.

Anonymous on Aug 29 2005, 22:38

Surgeons don't have lives. They have wives who have lives. And their kids. It's extremely difficult to strike a balance for them. They have a specialty (ESPECIALLY vascular surgery) where they are called, AND have to be present 24/7. When someone hits the ER with a blue foot, you aren't far behind.

General surgery is the same deal. The only out is a large group with many taking call. Then the call times are horrible.

Just because you CAN have babies after 40 doesn't mean you WANT babies after 40. Lots more pregnancy problems. Financing kids and college and retirement at the same time is NO joke.

Anonymous on Aug 30 2005, 07:03