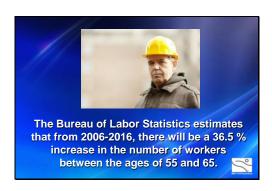
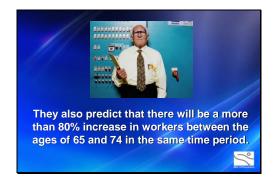


### Slide 2





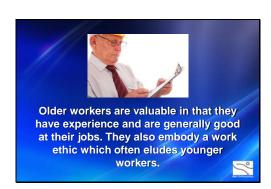


### Slide 5

These statistics are the result of the 76 million baby boomers steadily moving through the workforce.

At the same time, workforce growth is slowing due to a poor economy, a low national fertility rate and a statistical leveling off of women in the workplace







### Slide 8

Younger workers have more workplace injuries than their older counterparts, but those individual injuries are substantially less costly than injuries among older workers.

The four most common injuries to older workers include soft tissue injuries to the shoulder, knee, neck and lower back.



### Slide 9

The onset of arthritis, degenerative disc disease, low back pain & shoulder impingement are common conditions in an aging population, but physically demanding jobs can aggravate these conditions





### Slide 11

Physicians who are experienced in treating injured workers have refined their diagnostic and treatment skills to provide a superior cost / benefit ratio for all concerned



### Slide 12

Accurately diagnosing work related injuries in older patients, is particularly important.

An accurate diagnosis and subsequent treatment will aid in the claimant returning to work faster

An accurate diagnosis will also establish a

An accurate diagnosis will also establish a realistic "baseline" for older patients. This baseline is my assessment of the patients pre-injury condition



### Managing Expectations & Predicting Outcomes

As an orthopedic surgeon, I must manage my patients expectations, i.e. tell them what we can and cannot do, and we make predictions telling them how long it will take to achieve a certain level of improvement.

### Slide 14





## Diagnosis Review the patient's history in detail. Via the history, we can determine what is chronic , pre-existing, age related, what comorbidities will affect the outcome, and also what is a result of the industrial accident

### Slide 17





# Diagnosis Significant Co-morbidities Other underlying conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, osteoporosis, osteopenia etc...

### Slide 20



### Slide 21

### Diagnosis

- Good quality x-rays are crucial to diagnosis
- They will help to "date" the injury & determine if pre-existing arthritis is present
- Radiologists typically underestimate the level of arthritis present
- •The level of arthritis present in an x-ray is best determined by an experienced orthopedic surgeon who reviews them on a daily basis

### Not All M.R.I. Scanners Are Created Equal! 1.5 Tesla .5 Tesla

### Slide 23





### **Treatment**

Physical Therapists, experienced in treating work related injuries, are also a critical component of returning patients to work

Their knowledge of overcoming apprehension, non-compliance and other issues common in w/c patients, are key to successful outcomes



### Slide 26

### **Treatment**

When surgery is indicated, a surgeon experienced in treating work related injuries becomes exponentially important

The knowledge and wisdom acquired from years of this experience, typically translates into a more rapid return to work for the patient and improved cost / benefit ratio for the care system



### Slide 27

### Conclusion

The aging workforce is injured less frequently than their younger counterparts, but the injuries of the aging workforce are usually more severe and therefore more costly to manage than younger worker's injuries





### Slide 29



