

The Harley Street heroes

A new TV drama has thrown the spotlight on London's private medical district. Here we name the 20 leading specialists who ensure the address keeps its world-class reputation

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LONDON'S Harley Street is still the most prestigious address in medicine. It's where well-heeled wives pay visits to their cosmetic surgeons and international "health tourists" buy services not available back home. You'll also stumble across seekers of all kinds of alternative therapies here, because for all its glamorous allure, Harley Street is remarkably democratic. In its wood-panelled consulting rooms are housed cutting-edge dentists and world-class heart surgeons alongside chiropractors, reflexologists and hypnotherapists.

Those who work there, and visit regularly, consider this mixture of paid-for services part of the historic area's peculiar charm. It is one of the few London streets still almost entirely dedicated to a single profession — healthcare — and trade often operates via that old-fashioned system — word of mouth.

Recently, cheaper rents and smarter waiting rooms have lured some of the medical profession's up-and-coming young consultants to nearby Devonshire and Wimpole streets. But Harley Street doctors still have a reputation for providing world-class treatment. In a world where private medicine is burgeoning, the residents of Harley Street are still highly sought after. Names such as Norman Waterhouse, the leading plastic surgeon, and fertility expert Dr Kamal Ahuja regularly feature in the private address books of the rich and famous.

An added draw for many patients is the discreet service offered by the street's experts. Websites are now the norm for many Harley Street doctors but some still do not advertise their services.

Such is the mystique surrounding the country's top medical district, that scriptwriters have attempted to immortalise it in a new medical drama which aired last week. The maker's of ITV's Harley Street have attempted to reveal what really goes on behind the brass nameplated doors. The result, featuring sex-obsessed Dr Robert (Paul Nicholls) and retail-addicted psychologist Martha (Suranne Jones), is, of course, a work of fiction. But the Standard has put together its own guide. From cancer experts to heart specialists, here are the street's real top 20 "stars".

THE FERTILITY SPECIALIST DR KAMAL AHUJA

His clinic recently made headlines for using a grandfather as donor to create an infertile son's child. Operates one of the country's most successful IVF clinics using the latest techniques. Pioneered egg-sharing scheme where women anonymously donate eggs in return for free or subsidised fertility treatment.

Contact: London Women's Clinic, 113-115 Harley Street, 020 7487 5050.
Cost: £4,000 for a single cycle of IVF.

THE DENTIST MR RICHARD WILSON

Not a flashy dentist to the stars but one of the longest serving, most respected on the street — his practice has been established for 30 years. Also works as an examiner for students at the Royal College of Surgeons. His specialism is minor surgery and teeth implants.

Contact: The Group Practice, 40 Harley Street, 020 7580 2720.
Cost: £120 for 45 minutes.

THE DERMATOLOGIST DR EMILIA DUARTE WILLIAMSON

Hedge-fund wives go to her to maintain their blemish-free skin — she's an expert in facial peels for acne and cosmetic dermatology. But she also specialises in surgery and patients who suffer from skin cancer. Accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and has 20 years' experience as a doctor. NHS work is at Frimley Park Hospital in Surrey.

Contact: The Harley Street Health Suite, 1 Harley Street, 020 7580 6191, www.harleystreet.com
Cost: £150 for consultation.

THE EYE SPECIALIST DR GILLI VAFIDIS

This Cambridge-educated consultant ophthalmic surgeon is a renowned expert in treating serious eye disorders including problems related to diabetes and diseases of the retina. She qualified at Guy's hospital in London. Also treats blurred vision and general eyesight issues.

Contact: The London Clinic, 149 Harley Street, 020 7935 4444.
Cost: £200 for consultation.

THE GASTROENTEROLOGIST PROFESSOR JOHN NORTHOVER

A leader in his field of stomach complaints, Professor Northover is head of intestinal and colorectal disorders at Imperial College, London and well known for treating complex, advanced cancers of the rectum and colon.

Contact: The London Clinic, 149 Harley Street, 020 7486 1008.
Cost: between £210 and £310 for a consultation.

THE GYNAECOLOGIST MR RICHARD E SMITH

Hugely popular, twinkly-eyed Scot doing groundbreaking work with young female cancer patients. Currently pioneering technique to help those born without a uterus to become mothers. Also works at London's leading fertility centre, the Lister Hospital.

Contact: Premier Integrated Health Centre, 132 Harley Street, 020 7563 1850.
Cost: £160 for half-hour consultation.

THE COSMETIC SURGEONS

THE BOTOX EXPERT ADRIAN RICHARDS

Was on the original research team which investigated cosmetic uses for Botox. Part of career spent as reconstructive surgeon at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. He is also author of the definitive guide for plastic surgeons to follow on professional practice.

Contact: 10 Harley Street, 0800 3285743, www.arandassociates.co.uk

Cost: No charge for initial consultation; Botox from £350.



THE FACIAL SURGEON NORMAN WATERHOUSE

One of country's leading aesthetic surgeons. Nonsense and hugely experienced doctor whose philosophy is that "cosmetic" operations involve serious, life-changing surgery. Former president of the British Association of Aesthetic and Plastic Surgeons (BAAPS) and on the GMC's special register of physicians.

Contact: The Practice, 55 Harley Street, 020 7636 4073, www.norman-waterhouse.com

Cost: £180 for half an hour; facelift from £7,000.

THE NOSE SPECIALIST DAI DAVIES

Part of the team which brought the first minimally invasive facelift to the UK. Well-respected reconstructive surgeon whose expertise includes natural and discreet-looking rhinoplasty (nose) operations. BAAPS registered.

Contact: Plastic Surgery Partners, 55 Harley Street, 020 8735 6060, www.daidavies.org
Cost: £100 for half an hour; rhinoplasty £5,000-£8000.

THE HEART SPECIALIST PROFESSOR JANE SOMMERVILLE



One of world's leading experts on congenital heart conditions. Set up UK's first specialist service 25 years ago which focused on problems such as

high pulse rates or abnormal heart valves which she believes often go undetected by doctors. Has led inquiries into delays in care.

Contact: 81 Harley Street, 020 7299 9471.
Cost: £250 for initial session.

THE HYPNOTHERAPIST SUSAN HEPBURN

Patients are drawn to her compassionate and warm approach based on treating the patient first, not the problem. Weight loss, smoking, stress and phobias are just some of the issues she tackles. Member of the National Council of Hypnotherapy.

Contact: Hypnotherapy Associates, The Lewis Clinic, 1 Harley Street, 07780 617811.
Cost: £90 for 1 hour 30min first session.

THE NEUROLOGIST DR JEFFREY GAWLER



Describes himself as an "ordinary" sort of neurologist but has established a reputation as a leading expert on a wide range of complaints. This includes migraines

as well as patients suffering from conditions as a result of having major surgery.

Contact: The London Clinic, 145 Harley Street, 020 7224 0640.
Cost: £250 for consultation.

THE PODIATRIST MR SCOTT CORTHINE

Foot doctor to the stars of the West End stage. This podiatric surgeon also sees a lot of bunions and treats women with veins who want to wear stylish high heels.

Contact: 22 Harley Street, 020 7907 1900.
Cost: £85-£125 for consultation.

THE OBSTETRICIAN PROFESSOR KYPROS NICOLAIDES



Known as the king of the ultrasounds for his pioneering work on diagnosing defects at early stage in baby's development, negating the need