



*Above, Backus Hospital's **Michael Halperin, MD**, second from left, is on a two-week trip to Sozhou, China, working to help modernize orthopedic and spine surgery. But he is also learning from his hosts, including how to do some very complex surgeries with the patients awake under local anesthesia. These procedures can be very safe ways to handle risky cases, because if doctors get too close to the spinal cord, the patient can tell them and adjustments can be made accordingly. Also, the anesthetic contains epinephrine, which constricts blood vessels and dramatically reduces blood loss.*



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