

c) SURGERY FOR PERIPHERAL NERVES INCLUDING CARPAL AND ULNAR TUNNEL SYNDROMES OF THE ARMS

WILFRED S.

For so many years, he complained of shoulder pain and pain going to the side of the neck. It was so horrible that when he had heart surgery, the cut through his chest can not be compared with the pain in the shoulder. He spent wealth of money to find the cause. He had several shoulder surgeries with no relief. He was sent to a neurosurgeon for a wrong diagnosis which to consider the cervical disc as a cause of his pain and to perform surgery in his cervical spine. It took but a minute to examine the patient's shoulder to find that there is a local tumor under the skin that perhaps is causing all his symptoms. Just touching an area under the skin was able to elicit his entire pain. A 15 minute surgery under local sedation and a local skin nervous tumor was found and removed. Patient immediately felt a relief that was everlasting. The tumor was benign and called "ganglioma"

Wilfred S. suffered for a long time with pain in his shoulder. He has extensive knowledge of the medical community, having had a triple heart bypass in 1995, surgery for prostate cancer and colon cancer, as well as several surgeries on his shoulder, though they did not offer him much relief from the pain.

"If you have pain, you need Dr. Ghaly," Wilfred says. "He actually listens. So many doctors say it's all in your head. I had had pain in my shoulder for 20 years. I had tow orthopedic surgeons operate on it: once arthroscopically, and once with traditional open surgery. The pain kept coming back."

Finally Wilfred's family physician referred him to a neurologist and he met with Dr. Ghaly. "When I discussed it with Dr. Ghaly, he was so thorough. He ran lots of tests and after reviewing them he said he would operate through the old scar and also would have an orthopedic surgeon in the operating room in case he needed their expertise."

When Dr. Ghaly did the surgery he found a type of tumor found at the nerve endings and causing lots of pain. "I went home the same day, and from that time on the pain was gone!" Wilfred says. "Then I was amazed when Dr. Ghaly himself called me that evening to see how I was doing. In fact, Dr. Ghaly kept checking up on me at regular intervals."

Some time later Wilfred says he got a call from a woman on the East Coast. She told him she suffered from a similar complaint and had met a doctor who was in school with Dr. Ghaly. He suggested she come to Illinois to see him. She said the pain was so bad she had almost gotten to the point of considering suicide. She came to Illinois and Dr. Ghaly did the surgery, also curing her long-term pain. "She said it's just a miracle, and I agreed with her," Wilfred said. "I remember having pain so great that I could not tolerate even the lightest touch on my shoulder."

Wilfred is 80 years old now and out shoveling snow with his wife. "You know with modern medicine they keep a lot of people alive and going now," he says. "I'm glad I finally found the right doctor and the right procedure. Dr. Ghaly even sent me a plant at home, and when my daughter and her husband died he sent a card. He's a very caring person."

ANNE L.

A 36 year old attorney was misdiagnosed for years with severe sciatic nerve tumors. The sciatic nerve is located in the back of the thigh and the leg and supplies the entire leg. Her previous physicians were looking for a cause in her spine. When they did not find lesions in her spine, they thought it could be "coming from her head". She has seen multiple specialists and was placed on high doses of strong pain medication and continued to work and raise her 3 children. Every time she sits the tumor hits the nerve and the pain becomes disabling and she is unable to open her mouth because she was told "this is in her head". She then underwent palliative treatment, using electrical stimulator to be placed in her spine, to help with the pain. The incision in her back was 7 inches long and had to carry a bucket containing the stimulator. The condition of the patient became suicidal and terminal, and effected severely her medical relation and her social image. Finally she was sent by the grace of God to a physician who was able to look at her thigh and find the 6 inch large tumor. Immediately this has given her all the hope back after being placed on depression medication. In 1999 the tumor was totally resected. And was found to be benign schwonoma. She had complete recovery and went back to work in 2005 she requested for the spine stimulator to be removed and it was removed. With no complications. She is currently on no medication for pain and as of today no recurrence of the tumor.

Anne L. did not have a spinal cord tumor, but rather a tumor in her thigh, which pressed on her sciatic nerve. Her story is one of many misdiagnoses and many medical professionals who failed to treat her problem.

For Anne, unremitting pain down her leg and into her foot almost destroyed her life. She lost several jobs, and almost lost her marriage.

Severe pain in her left leg continued for some 10 years, starting as early as 1989. She went to several major medical institutions, and saw numerous specialists. All told her she had problems in her back, a pinched nerve. She became depressed, was put on medication, and gained about 100 pounds due to the inability to stave active, and because of the medications that affected her metabolism.

Today, 10 years after the surgery, Anne suffers only from a bit of numbness. "My life is no longer about the pain," Anne says. "Dr. Ghaly took that terrible pain away. Also, I am not as angry and bitter as I was about everything that happened to me."

Fortunately for Anne, she did not take the medical establishment's failure to cure her pain and kept seeking a solution. When Anne saw a Dateline segment on TV on fibromyalgia and morphine pumps which can be inserted into a patient's back to control pain, she decided that might be a solution for her pain. "I had stopped looking for a cure by then," she says. "Now I just wanted relief from the pain."

Anne was a busy attorney and mother and wife, but all she could manage was to go to work and come home, take drugs to knock out the pain, and go to bed. "I lost a large part of my children's childhood," Anne says. "I lost several jobs, and almost my marriage. My doctors started suggesting my pain was in my head. I was treated as some hysterical female. I kept telling them my left leg and foot hurt, not my back. It got so even my family and friends didn't believe I was really in pain."

Over the course of her treatment at several major medical centers, Lopez had numerous MRI's, four dorsal column stimulator implants, and more. The battery pack for the nerve stimulators is supposed to last several years. Anne used hers so much that she had to have them replaced within six months.

"It got to the point where everyone gave up on me," she recalls. "If my story reaches one person, if it gives just one person hope for a cure, then it's worth it because an amazing thing happened. I found Dr. Ghaly. He gave me back my life. I went to him because I wanted relief from pain. I wanted to get back a life that's livable. But he cured me."

Anne came to Dr. Ghaly to ask for the morphine pump, but he found the problem within moments. "Dr. Ghaly laid a hand my thigh, without me even removing my clothes, and he said it was a tumor pressing on my sciatic nerve," Anne says. "A CAT scan confirmed the diagnosis, and surgery was scheduled to remove the tumor."

Even though there was some risk associated with the surgery, Anne decided to go ahead as she was desperate to cure the pain. Dr. Ghaly removed a three-inch long tumor that was intertwined with the filaments of the nerves.

The tumor was benign, and Anne was up and walking without pain on the second day after the surgery.

“Dr. Ghaly is so wonderful,’ Anne says. “He’s such a compassionate person. The best part is that he believed me. Some told me to tackle my own demons and lose weight and I’d be fine. Dr. Ghaly listened to me. He’s a miracle worker.”

Anne wore heavy medical support hose for several months to control swelling and encourage good blood circulation. She was only off work three weeks and has lost much of the weight she had gained. She has started her own law firm and says she’s enjoying her husband and children once more.

“It’s hard when you’re going through the pain not to be self-centered,” she said. “There’s so much pain and anger. I wish I could have been less hateful, less mean. Pain makes you mean. Try not to complain, to repeat complaints. The more I complained, the less people believed me. The real important message here is not to give up. I was fortunate to find a doctor who wasn’t willing to give up hope, who was willing to find a solution.”

PETE S.

A 72 years old gentleman happily married and enjoying his wife, children (7) and great grandchildren. He is totally independent live his life to fullest. He likes to walk by the beach and golf. In 2006, he had enough of the tingling and pain in lower back and legs. His spinal MRI showed severe stenosis and narrowing the canal with pressure on the nerves going to the legs. He was debating about the surgery. At that time his neck, cervical spine also showed stenosis and he had left ulnar tunnel syndrome. Surgery was done first in the cervical spine by removing the arthritis and part of the bone from the back and placing hardware. He also had the nerve in elbow freed, ulnar tunnel release. He did well and his weakness and balance got better. I’m doing fine now, and really never had one moment of pain from the time I woke up from the anesthesia,” Pete says. “It was an instant cure!” “It did help for a while,” Pete says. “But I’m a very outdoor guy, very active. I play

CAROL K.

A 58 years old female presented with Numbness in the hands, weakness of both hands with difficulty sleeping. She underwent endoscopic carpal tunnel release surgery for each hand. She did well and went back to work. *So, today, I’m back to work and returning to normal.*”

ELLEN M.

What a great lady with strong positive look at life and things coming in her way. She then suffered from carpal tunnel syndrome where her three fingers thumb, index and ring fingers get numb especially when she hold things and sleeps at night. She was dropping things from her hand. She underwent carpal tunnel release surgery by endoscope at each hand with remarkable recovery. She recovered from all of that great. She never accepted any of this to hinder her daily activity, enthusiasm and look at bright and active future ahead.



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