

Status Update on Rhoda Gerona by Dr. Emmanuel M. de la Paz
– dated January 12, 2010

This is an update of the current status of Ms. Rhoda Gerona.

Rhoda is approaching her third year of treatment for an acquired deformity of her left thigh. In September, 2007, Rhoda underwent Ilizarov surgery to lengthen her left thigh that was rendered short by an infection she acquired as a baby. Her treatment is ongoing. Thus far, she's had her Ilizarov longer than any other patient I've treated with this method. The average duration that patients remain with this device is about a year.

At the moment, we have decided to discontinue the lengthening process. Where as the actual length of her short left lower extremity has already been equalized, there remains an apparent shortening due to a dislocated hip joint (a result also of the infection she received as a baby). We have lengthened her short thigh more than 20cm over the course of 2 years.

During the course of her treatment she's had many problems. One of the more serious incidents resulted in the pins of her fixator getting pulled out from her bone. This resulted from her slipping on (a) wet floor and required an operation where her fixator needed to be reattached to her thigh bone. The decision to discontinue the treatment at this stage is based on the need to avoid further complications that outweigh anticipated benefits from the continued treatment.

On termination of treatment with the removal of (the) fixator within four months, she is expected to have residual problems which can be addressed at a later time.

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