

UPDATE ON RHODA GERONA

(December 21, 2008)

When Rhoda had her first operation on September of 2007, our intention was to complete her treatment by August of 2008. Starting with a leg discrepancy of 22 cms, we have managed to date, to lengthen her short left leg by almost 12 cms. There are several factors why we have not been successful in achieving the original goal. Firstly, the bone on her thigh is not growing as well as expected. This could be only attributed to Rhoda's relatively poor nutritional status. Secondly, Rhoda developed some infection on her thigh which not only compromised her healing, but also required two unplanned operations, the most recent of which was done this October. Thirdly, over the course of the last few months, Rhoda had also grown several cms, further widening the discrepancy of the leg lengths.

At present, the shortening of the left leg is at 10cms, barring any further complications and unforeseen circumstances the leg lengths should be equalized in about 4 months. Once equalized, her thigh will need to remain in the fixator for another 6 months. After this time, she'll need hospitalization for the removal of the fixator. The ball park cost of the operation to remove the fixator is about Php 25,000 at today's rates (approx. \$525.00 US).

Her treatment has been fraught with several confounders: the condition that has primarily afflicted her bone is difficult to treat and her current social condition resulted in poor nutritional status. We can only hope that there will be no further complications during her treatment. Try hard as we may to avoid them, complications sometimes do happen, prolonging the treatment and, regrettably, escalating the cost of care.

Kind regards,

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