

b) SPINAL SURGERY

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1) SURGERY FOR CERVICAL SPINE (NECK)

KAREN R.

A 65 years old female suffered from motor vehicle accident that caused fracture in the cervical spine in the neck at C5-6 and C6-7. In her first two emergency room visits, it was not diagnosed. She went home, but the neck pain and the arms and leg weakness brought her back for the third time in the emergency room. At that time, she lost a lot of strength and feelings in her arms and legs. The MRI, CAT scan and X-rays of the spine showed severe cord compression and broken neck and instability that will lead to complete paralysis. Her neck immediately was held still in a traction device with weight called cervical tongues. She then went to surgery where the herniated discs were removed, her spine was put together and aligned and then fixated with screws and plate made of titanium from the front. In the same time, she was positioned in her back and fused from the back of the spine at C5-C7. The fusion was done 360 in order to make sure no more instability and danger to the spinal cord and nerves. The surgery was done in 2003. She recovered well and took her 6 months to regain her strength. She started to drive and working until today. Her last visit with Dr. Ghaly

was in 2009. The patient and entire family believed in the miracle of her recovery and continued to enjoy her presence.

Five or six years ago Karen R. sustained a broken neck in an automobile accident. "I had a car hit me on a rainy night and went to three emergency rooms before I came upon Dr. Ghaly, who finally recognized that I had a broken neck," Karen says. "The first ER gave me some pain pills. The second told me to give it some time and I'd feel better. Dr. Ghaly just happened to walk past me and I heard him say, 'Oh my gosh, she has a broken neck.'"

Karen had surgery and wore a cervical collar for a month. She also did therapy, but today she's back to normal. "I'm so blessed to find Dr. Ghaly," Karen said. "If it was not treated I could be paralyzed! But today I'm up and walking, and a real terror!"

Karen did several weeks of physical therapy and rehab after surgery and then returned home. Her daughter drove her to medical appointments and outpatient therapy form a while, but she says it wasn't long before she was back behind the wheel.

"I still wear a light cervical collar at night, because it's comfortable," she says.

"I'd tell anyone in my condition to hope to find an excellent doctor like Dr. Ghaly," she says. "And therapy was a big help. The real challenge is to find the right doctor, though. Without the right treatment I would be in terrible shape today. Who knows what might have happened?"

KEN S.

In 2005, a 38 years old male presented with severe disabling neck pain and stiffness and pain, numbness and tingling and weakness in the right upper extremity. He was suffering for years since 1992 and was told that if he had gone for surgery, 50% chance he will be paralyzed. The other non surgical treatment did not help. His condition got worse with accident at work. The MRI, CT scan of the cervical spine showed C6-7 cervical disc herniation, bone spurs and cord and nerve root compression. He underwent surgical removal of C6-7 disc and fusion using cadaver bone to replace the disc space and plate and screws to hold the level together. Over the next months, he improved and went back to full duty work. As of 2010, he continued to work and enjoy his family.

Ken S. is a pipefitter who was injured at work about four years ago "By the time I got home from work that day, I couldn't feel my arms," Ken recalls. "Then the pain got really bad. I was fortunate because some years ago my sister-in-law had Dr. Ghaly do brain surgery, so we knew Dr. Ghaly. My wife called him and he scheduled an appointment within the week."

But Ken's pain continued to get worse, so the appointment was changed to that Saturday. "Dr. Ghaly ran extensive tests and was concerned that I would have permanent nerve damage if we did not do surgery immediately," Ken says. "So by that Monday I was in surgery. It was a god thing, because I had herniated a disk which was pressing on the nerve supply to my arms and hands."

Ken says he felt immediate relief from the severe pain after the surgery but he still could not use his arms. Recovery turned into a long ordeal. "I lost control of my arms for a year and a half," he says. "I did extensive physical therapy for nine months. The first three months I couldn't do much in therapy, but then I started getting better and stronger."

Ken says he still lacks the strength he had before the accident, and has some residual loss of feeling in two fingers, but he's doing well. "I'm fortunate that I now have a job that does not require me to use tools in the field," he says. "But it's still pretty scary sometimes. I have to remember that I have a plate in my throat, even when I roughhouse with my son."

Ken says time is of the essence when you suffer an injury. "I tell everyone not to wait," he says. "Don't wait! We are so fortunate to have Dr. Ghaly to turn to. The guy's amazing. He has touched the lives of so many of our friends and relatives."

JOHN D

A 42 Years old man presented with work related injury that caused herniation in his cervical spine and resulted in weakness and atrophy of his arms. The MRI of the cervical spine showed severe cervical stenosis and disk herniation and bony spurs at 3 levels. C4-C5, C5-C6, C6-C7. He could not hold things well with his arms and had a history of stroke in 1999, high blood pressure and high cholesterol at young age. He was placed on blood thinners in addition to medication to control his medical problems. The accident was in 2005 and he continued to deteriorate and then he sought our opinion about a year later when he lost a lot of strength. By then the diagnosis was not made yet by his other physicians. He remembered his neurosurgeon that made his initial diagnosis back in 1999 when he presented with a stroke. At that time he had no idea that he had been suffering from diabetes, high cholesterol and high blood pressure, which ultimately lead to his stroke. Once these conditions were treated he recovered completely from the stroke and had no further strokes, and was able to go back to work. In 2006 patient underwent anterior cervical discectomy at the 3 levels, with fusions. He gradually improved and was able to go back to work.

John D. has a long history of neurological problems. He suffered a small TIA (a kind of 'mini' stroke which often comes before a major stroke) in 1999 at age 36. "I was having dizzy spells and one day my hand started to jerk," John recalls. "I called off work and eventually spent nine days in the hospital. I was fortunate Dr. Ghaly was on call that day because he got me back on my feet again. I was a smoker and had sky high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and high blood sugar. I was diagnosed with diabetes. It took two months for a full recovery. Dr. Ghaly said I had to change my lifestyle, and I did."

Then, in 2006, John D. returned to Dr. Ghaly for spinal surgery. "Dr. Ghaly fused C4-C7 vertebra after a back injury at work," John said. "I suffered with sharp pain like a lightning bolt for a year after the accident," John said. "I would feel a jolt of pain from my finger tips to the top of my ear. Dr. Ghaly asked me why I waited so long to get this fixed. I finally saw Dr. Ghaly when I couldn't stand the tingling any longer. I had seen an orthopedic doctor, but he said he couldn't stop the pain because it was neurological."

Today John is back to his normal life. "My advice is do the surgery," he says. "And see Dr. Ghaly. Make sure you have the best surgeon in the Midwest! He's kinda strict and tells it like it is, but I won't let anyone else do surgery on me. He's really tough on the nurses, and I don't think many of them like him much, but he's tops for the patients. I've never had a doctor call me to check on me, and he does it all the time!"

APRIL W.

She was doing good until she tried to lift a patient as a nurse and herniated a cervical disc at C5-6 that caused her pain and numbness shooting from the neck all the way to the right arm. She suffered for 6 months despite physical therapy, pain medications and finally she underwent surgery where the cervical disc at C5-6 was removed and replaced by bone graft and hardware to hold things together. The nerve was freed and she required physical therapy afterwards.

April W. had cervical discectomy and fusion surgery in November 2009. Her condition was a result of a work-related injury. She suffered from neck and upper back pain, numbness and tingling in her right arm, for some time. Her troubles began in California, where she was living at the time. She was treated there, but her condition continued to cause pain and suffering and she moved back to the Chicago area.

"I knew of Dr. Ghaly because he had done brain surgery on someone I knew, and I had been amazed at the care he gave to his patients, so he was a logical choice for me with my problem," April says. "He gets everything moving very quickly. He's such a hands-on doctor. In no time he had decided I needed surgery, and I had that surgery."

Dr. Ghaly found a nerve that was badly pinched. April says she feels better now, but she still suffers from nerve spasms, and will for some time.

“But I’m doing well, and getting around better each day,” she says. “I tell everyone that if symptoms persist, to pursue treatment. I did a couple months of physical therapy, but for me there was just no other option except surgery.”

April says to find a physician who is proactive and takes care of patients. “Dr. Ghaly is so proactive, he just takes charge,” she says. “He treated me as a whole person, not just my neck. He called me constantly to check on how I was doing. And he’s such a spiritual man. I appreciated that.”

JOHN M.

A 41 years old male presented with severe nagging neck pain and pain and numbness going to the left arm and hand. He could not sleep or turn, his walking was wobbly. Scapular pain, feel like pulled muscle. Neck was stiff. He was taking a lot of pain medication with no relief. Lack of sleep affected him and his family. The MRI, CT scan and x-rays showed severe neck arthritis in the spine, disc herniation at C5-6 and C7-7 and poor spine curvature. The surgery was done and the disc material was removed and bone spurs were trimmed and cadaver bone was placed instead. The two levels were fused using hardware plate and screws. He stayed in the hospital for two days and neck collar was removed in one month and went back to work in two months. He could not belief how wonderful he felt. His feet was corrected by orthotics. He has a great story to tell and advice to tell many patients. His wonderful wife and two children were at his bedside all time and were part of his great recovery. Their faith never left them.

John M. had cervical surgery in December 2009. He developed symptoms such as numbness in his fingers, constant pain from his shoulder to arm, and, after several months of enduring the pain, he saw an orthopedist. That physician recommended he see Dr. Ghaly.

“Dr. Ghaly is such a remarkable person,” John says. “He encouraged me to get another opinion, and I must have talked to 20 others, but I knew when I left Dr. Ghaly’s office he was the one to do the surgery. He was just a Godsend.”

Surgery went well and Dr. Ghaly cleaned out debris and fixed John’s cervical spine in an eight hour surgery. “When I came out of the anesthesia, I was amazed I had no pain,” John says. “I was finally out of that constant pain!”

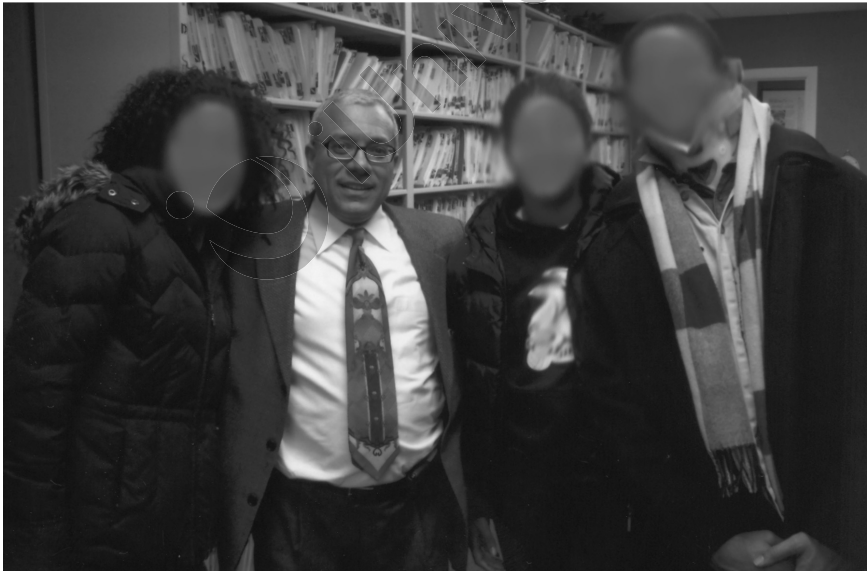
The surgery was the first surgery or illness ever faced by John and his wife. “We were amazed at the level of quality Dr. Ghaly demanded of every person involved in my care,” John says. “He had a nurse call my wife every

hour during the surgery, and he even called himself once the surgery was completed-from the operating room!”

Recovery is going well for John. He had to wear a neck brace for five weeks and recently got out of it. He is continuing physical therapy and expects t be back to normal very soon.

“Because of insurance issues, we had to use another home care agency than the one Dr. Ghaly recommends, and their quality of care was not good,” says John. “So we stopped using them and Dr. Ghaly taught my wife how to care for me. And he also called the home care agency and told them about their subpar care.”

John says he thinks he hurt himself while working out. “People told me I do not breathe properly when I life weights,” he said. “I tend to hold my breath and it contracts youre spine. So to avoid this kind of injury, be sure to breathe! And be sure to find a surgeon you can trust, like Dr. Ghaly. I told my wife something good would come out of this, and it did. We met Dr. Ghaly. He took away the unknown. He took his time explaining what would happen. We first met on a Friday evening, about 5 p.m. But he still spent two and a half hours with us answering all our questions. We were nervous, but he certainly made us feel better, so we went into this surgery confident in its outcome.”



JM may not know that the cervical disc herniation in the neck can cause numbness, tingling and weakness in the arms and if neglected, it can cause paralysis, difficulty walking and clumsiness of the hands. JM, a hard working man with a great wife and two wonderful daughters, could not see himself

away from his family or his work to support his family. He loved his job so much that he would wake up early every day looking forward to going to work. In the same time, he enjoyed his family so much that he could not wait to see them and be with his family. The numbness and tingling in his hands and arms, and the balance issues swept into him slowly and got worse and worse. He continued to keep going, until it became overwhelming and could not sleep. An MRI of the cervical spine showed two large disc herniations in the neck and arthritis build up. After evaluating the condition and results and doing his home work, he decided to pursue surgery with faith, hope and courage. His family stood by him and his decision. During surgery, the cervical extruded discs were removed and the calcium build up was trimmed. The two levels were fused. He recovered in the recovery care unit (PACU). His vitals were okay; he was encouraged to do breathing exercises and cough. He was turning from side to side. The next day he walked in the hallway and advanced his diet. The following day, he was discharged to go home with his family and the help of a home nurse and therapist. His wife and children were caring for him one to one. Ten days later he came with his children and wife to the clinic with his neck collar in place. He was so positive and joyful. Two more visits to the clinic and x-rays of the neck indicated good placement of the instrumentation. The neck collar was removed and he went back to work. It is great to see the faith in him and his courageous wife and children, God bless.

SANDRA S.

She presented with pain, numbness and tingling and weakness in the arms and legs. Her walking was difficult and had loss of balance. She lost the dexterity of her hands. The cervical spine in her neck, she had a lot of arthritis and pressure on the spinal cord by a disc that herniated in addition at the level of C3-4. She also had carpal tunnel syndrome. Before the surgery in her neck, heart stress test was done and she found that her coronaries are atherosclerotic and she is in the verge to have heart attack. Thank God for having the heart test before the neck surgery. After she recovered from the heart coronary stent, she underwent C3-4 discectomy and fusion was done. The disc was herniated and causing pressure on the spinal cord. She recovered well. She had a lot of energy and positive look at life. Her attitude was positive and never considered aging to slow her down. She went down to Florida and started to learn golfing and now she is fond of golfing.

Sandra S. had surgery to repair her third cervical vertebra about four years ago. "It all started with numbness in my fingers, and then moved to my hand," she recalls. "I thought at first it was carpal tunnel because I was

an administrative assistant. I was a very active person, an avid gardener. So I hauled around heavy items, including salt for the water softener. At only 4 foot 10 inches and 95 pounds, I assumed my problems were from all that heavy work.”

Turns out it wasn't. A man came in to work and was talking about the relief he had found from back pain by seeing a chiropractor. So Sandra thought she'd try that. The chiropractor took x-rays and suggested she get a full physical. That physician found she had elevated cholesterol and high blood pressure and prescribed medication for them. “But she didn't fix what I came in to get fixed!” Sandra says. “The blood pressure and cholesterol got under control, but the numbness got worse. It got so she could not drive or work and she retired.

“Finally a doctor ordered an MRI and I was referred to Dr. Ghaly,” Sandra says. “I loved him from the first appointment. He put my x-rays up on the light board and said, pointing to the third vertebra, there's my problem.”

Dr. Ghaly explained her options and possible complications and she opted for surgery. But before Dr. Ghaly will operate on anyone he requires a full cardiac workup. The cardiologist found several blockages and Sandra had two stents placed in her heart.

“Then the Ghaly surgery went well and recovery was pretty easy,” she said. “I've been very fortunate. Those were the first medical claims I ever made on insurance,” she says. “I admit I really waited too long and suffered more than I had to. I would tell anyone to have the utmost confidence in your doctor and don't hesitate to do the surgery. Today I keep up with my check-ups and I'm just kickin' here in Florida. I play golf several times a week and enjoy life.”

GINA S.

38 years old, a nurse, presented with miserable neck and left arm pain and numbness and tingling. She continued to suffer for six months and had the surgery where a small opening from the back of the neck was done and through this we were able to remove the extruded disc. She felt great after the surgery. Two years later she continues to do well.

Gina S. was referred to Dr. Ghaly by her sister-in-law, who had seen him for back pain. “I saw two other doctors before Dr. Ghaly, and wasn't pleased with either. And I saw another neurosurgeon after I saw Dr. Ghaly and wasn't impressed with him either,” Gina said. “I was so happy with the excellent quality of the care I got from Dr. Ghaly. I had been suffering from pain from a herniated disk in my neck for several months. I wanted a surgeon to go in through the back of my neck and do a microdiscectomy, but the other doctors would not do it. Ghaly would.”

Gina's surgery was delayed about four hours as they waited for a special piece of equipment that Dr. Ghaly had wanted to be there. "Meticulous as Dr. Ghaly is, he insisted he would not start until it was delivered," Gina says. "Then he had to check out the operating room to make sure everything was the way he wanted it. I know he drives the nurses crazy because he's so demanding, but his patients benefit from it."

In typical Ghaly fashion, he called Gina at home often to make certain she was progressing nicely after she left the hospital. "At first he called three times a day, then twice, and then every day," she said. "Today I'm pain free. I was miserable with the pain, which was unrelenting. I can't imagine someone who lives in constant, chronic pain. I'd tell anyone to not wait too long. Get the surgery. Don't obsess about what you do at home, that no one will be able to do those things while you're recuperating. Somehow it all gets done. Most of all, find the right doctor!"

JOY E.

A 36 years old female presented with years of neck, shoulder, scapular and arm pains, numbness, tingling and weakness. She lived for while in therapy and medications until it became unbearable. The MRI, CAT scan and X-ray of the cervical spine showed extensive bony spurs and arthritis with pressure over the cord and nerves. In 2007, she underwent C4-5 and C5-6 cervical discectomies and fusion. She recovered well, appreciative and back to work after three months of neck bracing and therapy.

Joy E. had a herniated disk. Her story is long and involves many other doctors, as she worked her way to having the surgery that ultimately gave her relief.

"My story starts with back issues," she says. "I saw Dr. Ghaly and he asked me if I had any other symptoms-any at all. I said I was fine, except for some headaches, which I had almost every day. My primary care doctor said it was from stress, and suggested I quit my job-not a possibility!"

After examining her, Dr. Ghaly told her that her back was not an issue. E was, however, very concerned about her neck. He told her it looked really bad, and that she would eventually need surgery. "But I was afraid of surgery, so I decided to wait," she says.

Several years later, she woke up with a terrible pain in her arm, and it kept getting worse. "I saw a chiropractor, and the adjustments helped for a very short while, less than an hour, and then the pain intensified," she said. "I was put on pain medications, but they did not work well either."

She returned to Dr. Ghaly, who told her again she needed surgery. "I was still not ready for surgery, even then, so I went back to the chiropractor, Joy

says. "He told me I should work with him, not have surgery. I never went back, but went back to my primary care physician. He said there were some things we could try, but when they did not work, I was sent back to Dr. Ghaly."

Finally, Joy was ready for surgery. "The surgery went great," Joy says. "I remember waking up on the operating table because they had to ask me to move my fingers and toes, and thinking, 'Oh, my God, there's no pain!'"

Recovery was easy, Joy said. "My pain before was so much worse than the pain of recovery, it was easy," she said. "The post surgery pain was nothing!"

Dr. Ghaly made sure she was well cared for, both in the hospital and at home during recovery. "My only problem was that I apparently talked too much with visitors in the hospital and my throat went into spasms," she recalls. "The hospital called Dr. Ghaly and he was there within minutes. I've never had a doctor take that kind of good care of me."

Joy's only problems now are occasional headaches, brought on by tension. "I have sent several people with similar symptoms to Dr. Ghaly," she says. "I tell everyone to see Dr. Ghaly. Don't go anyplace else. And don't wait so long. I was so scared, but he was there for me every step of the way."

MARY Z.

She complained with losing strength in her arms with pain and numbness and tingling. Her balance was poor, things were dropping from her hands. Her walking was difficult. The MRI of the cervical spine showed severe stenosis at three levels in the neck with pressure over the spinal cord. She was taken to surgery where all the arthritis and herniated discs were removed at three levels, C4-5, C5-5, C6-7. The discs were replaced with cadaver bones and hardware plate with screws were placed. After surgery, she started to regain her feeling and strength. The neck collar was placed around her neck for three months. Ten years later she continued to do well and serve others.

Mary Z had spinal surgery. She says she does not remember much about the surgery, or immediately afterwards, but that recovery was not painful. In fact, she says her pain was relieved immediately after surgery.

"The worst part was wearing the back brace," she recalls. "I was in a brace from waist to chin for a few months. Then I went to wearing a collar. The brace and collar were hot and I was always sweating in them. I was off work for about 10 months."

Mary says movement was frightening at first, but therapy helped, along with help from her family.

"As soon as I got the brace off, I told Dr. Ghaly I could ride my Harley," she said. "I've always been a Hog rider. It's my passion."

Today, Mary is doing well, with no problems. She has become a phlebotomist because, after her experience with surgery, she found she liked helping people. “I just love serving patients,” she says.

Mary appreciated Dr. Ghaly’s deep faith. “God and Dr. Ghaly have been good to me,” Mary said. “What I love most about this doctor is his deep faith. He credits God with doing it all through him. God has taken care of my family. I know God is right there with Dr. Ghaly every time he does surgery. His office has such a serene atmosphere.”



RR, a smile has never departed his face. He underwent two spine surgeries in his neck, two years apart. The first was to remove the herniated extruded disc that was pushing in the nerve going to the left arm. The first hospital visits thought it was related to the heart, but all the heart tests were normal. He continued to have a great deal of pain in the neck and going to the arm until an MRI of the neck was done, and large disc herniation was diagnosed. The extruded disc was removed and he was cured. Two years later, he developed pain, numbness and tingling in both arms and neck pain. The “arthritis” builds up in the other levels got worse and was pushing in the spinal cord. He was then taken for surgery to remove the pressure from the spinal cord in the neck, trim the arthritis and free the nerves. He recovered well from surgery and this is his picture two days later in a regular ward waiting to go home. He was passing through his illness journey in faith, hope and courage and never lost the smile, despite some turmoil in his recovery.

2) SURGERY FOR THORACIC AND LUMBAR SPINE (UPPER AND LOWER BACK)

BRIAN F.

A 21 YEARS OLD MALE involved in motor vehicular accident that changed his life dramatically. It made him a new person, kind to his mother and father, from being rebellious from his parents and using drugs and went far from Chicago to California. For the first time in years he came closer to his father. His mother and stepmother never left his sight after the accident. The car rolled over. He had a broken spine in the middle back, thoracic spine at multiple levels, he had spinal cord injury and was on the verge of losing all his strength. He was intubated on a machine to ventilate him. Thank God he did not get completely paralyzed. He was unstable from all these injuries, bleeding from the lungs. He was placed on restricted bed rest and required to be taken for major surgery on the spine where his spine was decompressed, the sac was repaired and spine was held together with rods and screws at 8 spine levels. The incision was 10inch long, thoracic level T4 to T10 and fracture was unstable and called Chance fracture. He had brain concussion and some hemorrhages, lung contusion and seat belt injury. He recovered well and made remarkable recovery. He walked unassisted and went to rehab and then home. The surgery was in 2005. He continues to do well. His mother made a diary with photos of each step of his recovery as a testimonial to his miracle recovery.

Brian F. was severely injured in an automobile crash in March 2005. His mother, Cindy, tells his story.

“I think of Humpty Dumpty when I tell people what happened to Brian,” Cindy says. “Dr. Ghaly literally put him back together again. Dr. Ghaly picked up the pieces and took over Brian’s care after the accident.”

Brian was driving only a mile or so from his home when he lost control of his vehicle. He swerved, and struck a fire hydrant. There were no people around, so he spent some time before a nurse happened upon the scene of the accident and called 9-1-1. It was midnight on the dot when Cindy received a call from the chaplain at the hospital, informing her of the accident. “When I first saw Brian in the ER I couldn’t believe all the blood,” Cindy recalls. “Brian had a broken back, brain hemorrhage, and severe internal injuries. He was not stable enough to do surgery on the back, so he was placed in a coma for about a week. Then, when he was brought out of it, he was such a fighter that the doctors were afraid he’d become paralyzed unless they did the surgery to repair his back. Dr. Ghaly rebuilt his spine using cadaver bones and steel rods and screws.”

Dr. Ghaly says he lost Brian twice during surgery, but was able to bring him back. “Dr. Ghaly told us the angels were with him,” Cindy says. “It was pretty amazing. Dr. Ghaly had Brian up and moving within 24 hours of the surgery. In addition, Brian came back from his head trauma. His speech came back pretty fast, but it made no sense when he talked at first. Now he might be a little slow in his thinking, and has some short term memory loss, but if you didn’t know him before the accident, you’d probably never notice there’s anything wrong.”

Brian was in the hospital for a month. Because he had no health insurance, Cindy says the hospital stepped him down from critical care to lesser care units quickly. “He actually walked out of the hospital,” Cindy says. “He wore a cast for almost a year and did lots of rehabilitation, but he’s pretty much back to normal.”

Rehab was a real challenge, again because he did not have insurance. Brian did his rehab as an outpatient at several facilities. At first he went to rehab every day; then every other day; then even less often. He spent more than a year in rehab. “Brian had to learn how to get to rehab on buses,” Cindy says. “He was that determined to get back to his former life. We had to use several facilities because they only support those without insurance for so long.”

Every cloud has a silver lining, and Brian’s story also has one. Through his ordeal he got back together with his father, who he had not seen for many years. Today, he lives with his father on a small farm north of Chicago. “Brian can do handstands today,” Cindy says. “He does work around the farm, drives a tractor, and works. There’s really little evidence of what he has gone through.”

Cindy credits Dr. Ghaly with the return of her son to normal life. “I think God sent him down here on earth to help people,” she says. “He’s just a miracle worker, an amazing man. I’d tell anyone facing the same thing to find Dr. Ghaly. I know each situation is different, and you do everything you can for your loved one, but never give up. I knew in my heart Brian would make it. I’ve had another year to love him and hug him. It may seem greedy, and I know God doesn’t put our children here for us, but it’s just part of being a mother to feel that way. I tell everyone: prayer and Dr. Ghaly—that’s what saved Brian!”

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, His children were talking to him as well. He got better by cortisone injection in the back, epidural, and therapy. He was able to put the surgery on the side until 2008, he decided to go for 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. He was able to put off the back surgery until 2009, a year later. He was really ready. Lumbar laminectomies and fusion were done. He is currently enjoying the recovery. What is amazing that he has more than ten medical problems and survival two cancers. He will write and organize his medications and treatments, summarize each doctor visit. He does not know the word “give up or överwhelming”. All his pain and suffering went away and he is ready to do more and walk around the beach. He is so independent that he can not be any better.

Pete S. had suffered from disabling and severe back pain for some time when he first saw Dr. Ghaly in 2006. His diagnosis had been stenosis of the back. At first Dr. Ghaly said Pete had too many complications for him to do surgery. Pete was on coumadin and was a diabetic, so Ghaly suggested a pain management specialist and therapy.

“It did help for a while,” Pete says. “But I’m a very outdoor guy, very active. I play golf three times a week, and fish. It got so that I could not hold a golf club, let alone swing it.”

Other physicians suggested surgery on Pete’s arm, but Dr. Ghaly studied the tests he had had done and said he thought the problem was actually in Pete’s cervical spine, as well as the arm. Ghaly suggested doing surgery on the disc and left ulnar nerve decompression at the same time.

“I’m so blessed I found Dr. Ghaly,” Pete says. “A friend’s wife was a head nurse and she said that Dr. Ghaly is a doctor the nurses do not like because he’s ‘a son-of-a-gun’, but that if she or any member of her family ever needed surgery, he was the only surgeon she’d allow to do the procedure.”

It turned out to be a fortuitous choice of a surgeon. “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!”

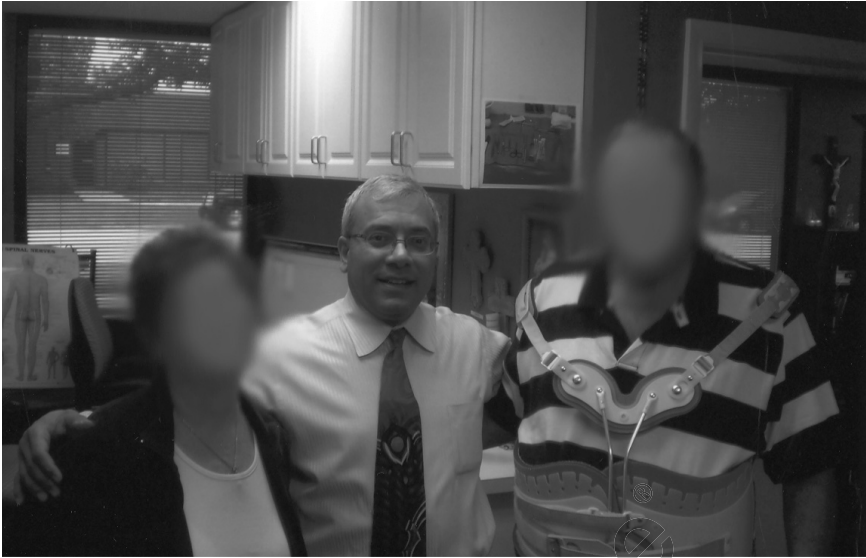
Pete notes he was especially appreciative of how Dr. Ghaly spends time explaining everything before the surgery. “He talked at length with my wife and my seven children, as well as their families,” Pete said. “So I just did what he told me to do, because I respect him. He’s religious, and to me that’s very important. Dr. Ghaly says God is working to cure patients through him, and

I believe that. He's just an amazing man. During recovery he trained my wife in my care, so she felt comfortable taking care of me."

Pete says anyone facing a similar diagnosis should find a doctor they can trust. "Find a great surgeon," Pete says. "I have all the confidence in Dr. Ghaly."

Pete had a second surgery with Dr. Ghaly in Sept. 2009. He says this surgery went as well as the first, and he is enjoying life now, pain free.





PS, when can you say enough is enough? Never with PS. He suffered for years with neck cervical “Stenosis”, narrowing of the spine in the neck squeezing the spinal cord and nerves to the arms and Lumbar Senosis (narrowing of the spinal canal in the lower back squeezing the nerves and causing pain down to the legs, and Cubital Tunnel Ulnar Nerve Syndrome, pressure in the ulnar nerve at the elbow causing numbness, tingling and weakness of the hands. The Cervical Spine Stenosis caused spinal cord compression, pain and numbness in the arms, legs and neck and back pain. This man has the greatest faith, courage and hope. He kept himself active and not letting anything slow him down, including having seven medical problems, every one of them could hinder him. He is a father of 8 grandchildren. After exhausting all conservative treatments, such as physical therapy, and epidural steroid injections, the patient underwent cervical spine surgery where the arthritis, calcium build up and stenosis were cleared at multiple levels. Instrumentation was placed to put the spine together and prevent from getting “weaker”. He also underwent releasing the nerve pressure Cubital Tunnel Syndrome. PS went on and recovered well, despite his list of “medical problems” of 7 medical conditions. What a story of faith, courage and hope. From the recovery care unit, he went to the regular ward under observation and monitoring. He started to ambulate with his neurosurgeon carrying the cervical spine brace. He came with his wife and the cervical spine brace (upper picture). He had no more arm pain or numbness or weakness. He got stronger and stronger from physical therapy. He went to Florida with great return of his walking and sensation. Then a year later, his lower back arthritis became too much

for him. The sciatica pain, difficulty walking and lower back pain were too much for him. He was ready now for lower back surgery. It was important to perform the neck surgery first to release the compression over the spinal cord. Otherwise while he is getting the lower back surgery, the pressure in the neck will result on paralysis of the arms and legs. PS went on and had similar surgery in the back where two lumbar spine surgery levels with fusion were performed. Ten days later, he was in his neurosurgeon's office with the low lumbar bracing (lower picture). Many patients will benefit from this man's path of his many illness journeys. Thank you and God bless.

SHIRLEY H.

A 50 years old female presented with work related injury where she suffered from L5-S1 disc herniation that caused her severe sciatica pain in the right leg. Over a month, she was going to her physicians and emergency rooms. Finally she was admitted and placed in intravenous narcotic medications that made her sleep but still with pain. She could not stand up and kept bending forward and tilted. She was single and had 7 children. She did not want to bother any of her grown children. She went to see a neurosurgeon that did care for her daughter and took the brain tumor out. She was so miserable that requested the surgery. In 2008, she underwent microscopic right L5-S1 discectomy. Gradually with physical therapy, she got stronger and went back to work and not receiving pain medication.

Shirley H. worked for Wal-Mart as a cashier, and one day in December 2008, as she lifted a large pack of water, she felt a twinge. "After that my leg hurt," Shirley says. "I was up all night with the pain running down my leg from my fanny. Then I was hospitalized for the leg pain. Everyone kept coming in and asking how my back was. I never knew the problem was in my back!"

Shirley was released from the hospital and told to take pain medication. Then she remembered Dr. Ghaly had done surgery on her daughter for a brain tumor a year ago. "I remembered he also treated spinal problems," Shirley says. "Dr. Ghaly is an angel. He has the hands of the Lord. I went to him, and he knew right away what was wrong with me."

Dr Ghaly did some extensive testing and told Shirley she needed surgery immediately. By then she had no use of her right leg. "The surgery was fabulous," she said. "After the surgery there was no pain. He removed a herniated disk. My incision healed well, and I was in therapy in no time. I still scuffle a bit when I walk, and turning over in bed is hard, but I expect to recover. I won't be disabled for life."

“I would absolutely recommend finding a superb doctor like Dr. Ghaly,” Shirley says. “He’s such a phenomenal doctor. I have all the trust in the world in him. He called me all the time to see how I was doing after the surgery. And my daughter, Maggie, is also doing well. Her brain tumor was not cancer and she’s back to normal. We are both blessed to have found Dr. Ghaly.”

LYLE E.

Lyle E., great war hero, was complaining of severe disabling pain, numbness and tingling to his leg. No one can help him. His son never saw his dad in tears. He was a strong man tolerable to the pains and suffering over the years through his service, but not the sciatica pain. He was found to have a large lumbar disc herniation at L4-5. Since all conservative treatments did not help him, he underwent lumbar microdiscectomy. After the surgery, he did not feel any pain or numbness and recovered completely and went back to fishing with his son. ☺

Lyle E. had spinal surgery for strangulation of the spinal cord in January, 2007. “I don’t want to bad mouth the Veteran’s Administration, but they did not help me,” Lyle says. “I was severely wounded in Viet Nam and since then all my health care has been through the VA. I did every step they called for, took all their tests. In the end I was bedridden for six months. All the VA told me was to learn how to manage the pain with pain killers.”

Lyle’s son did not take that as an acceptable diagnosis, so he started calling doctors. When he got to Dr. Ghaly, Lyle says it was ‘divine luck.’ At first, Dr. Ghaly hung up on Lyle’s son, but called back a minute later. Ghaly scheduled an appointment to see Lyle immediately and ran more tests. “I was scheduled for surgery on a Friday,” Lyle says. “I left the hospital the next day. I actually walked out of there!”

Recovery has not been easy, but Lyle says he has worked hard at regaining mobility. “That first summer after surgery I had problems with my equilibrium because I had some problems with my right foot,” he says. “But by the next summer I got it back. I was in really bad shape when I first saw Dr. Ghaly. I could hear the flutter of angel wings!”

Today Lyle is back to enjoying life. “I’m mean enough to whoop a grizzly bear if I catch him with my lunch,” the colorful veteran says. “I’m so grateful for Dr. Ghaly. He gave me my life back. He gave me the chance and I’m not wasting it. He did what nobody else could or would do. Ever since Viet Nam I was the kind of person who got back up and continued the fight, but I was really down this time. He gave me a hand, and I’ll never forget that. Life is worth living again.”

CLAIR Y.

A 64 years old male presented with years of lower back pain, pain, numbness and tingling in both legs. The pain is constant, he was bedridden after being chair bound for few months and could not straighten up. The spine x-rays and MRIs showed severe stenosis and spondylolysis and accumulation of bony spurs in the spine. No medications, therapy, or injections helped him. In 2008, he underwent decompressive multilevel spinal laminectomies and fusion using bone but no hardware. His recovery was great and was walking and felt much improved. Over time he ran into pressure in the toes that required attention. His other medical condition required regular medical check up like diabetes, gout, poor circulation and arthritis. Years ago he suffered from severe neuropathy that left him with numbness in the feet. His wife stood by him all the way. He also stood by his wife when she underwent cervical spine, neck surgery years ago.

Clair Y. had previous experience with spinal/cervical surgery and Dr. Ghaly as his wife, Nancy, had been a patient. Dr. Ghaly did cervical surgery on her in 2001 or 2002. "She was really in worse shape than I was," Clair says. "She kept falling down. But two days after the surgery, she was eating steak. Today she's doing great."

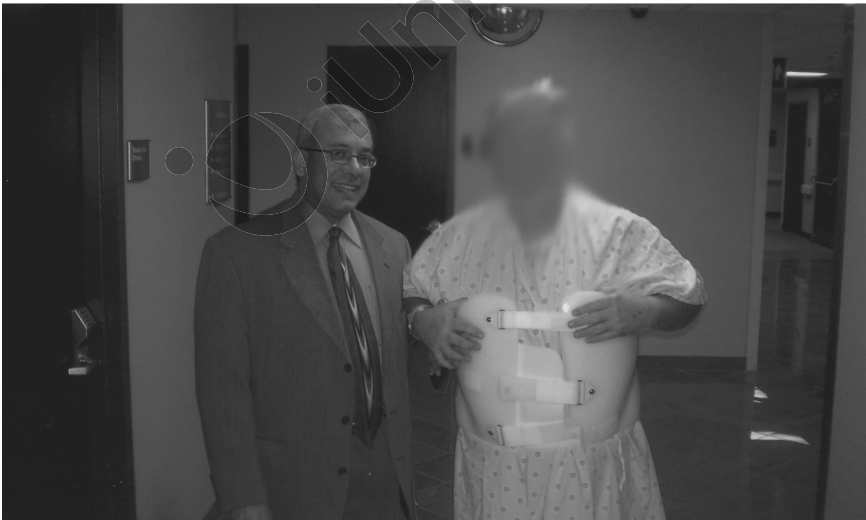
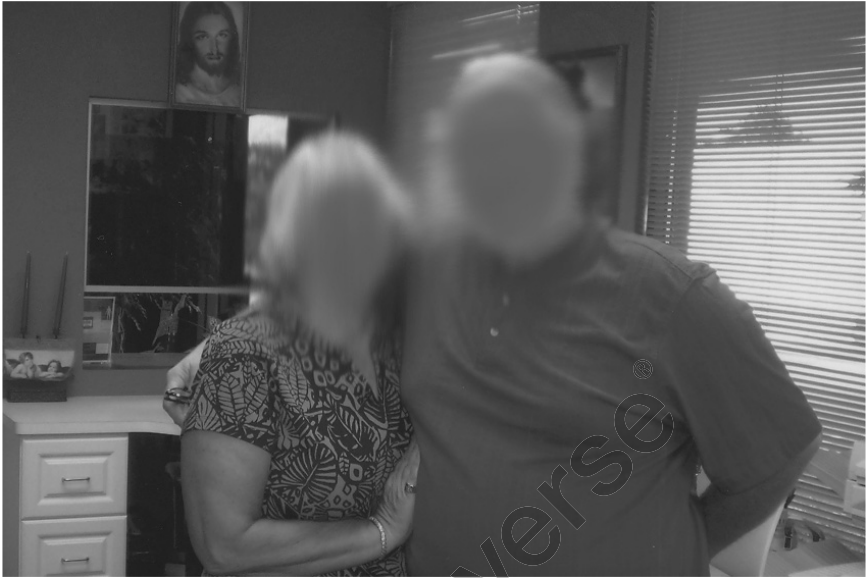
Still, Clair went through a succession of doctors and hospitals trying to get his lower back pain diagnosed. "I literally spent thousands of dollars going to a major Midwestern medical center and several prestigious hospitals in the Chicago area," Clair said. "They diagnosed me with everything from spinal stenosis (a narrowing of the spinal column) to needing to stop smoking. They did a really extensive array of tests. Finally, I asked Dr. Ghaly if he would investigate my condition further."

Clair brought his MRI films to Dr. Ghaly, who immediately saw the stenosis. Another MRI taken a year later showed the stenosis progressing, but Dr. Ghaly wanted to wait to see if it continued to progress.

"Then, in 2008, I suffered horrible pain from a sciatic nerve being pinched and last December (2008) Dr. Ghaly essentially remade bones in my spine to give the nerves more room. Now I'm almost pain free. I started out using a walker and wheel chair, and today I walk most of the time without assistance, unless I'm walking a long ways."

Clair wears a brace when he goes to bed, and will continue to wear it for about three months. He also uses an electrical stimulator to encourage bone bonding/growth for two hours each day. Dr. Ghaly says he should expect total recovery to be about a year.

“I was very fortunate to meet Dr. Ghaly,” Clair says. “Both my wife and I was thankful we met him. Nobody else in the medical community got either of our diagnoses right.”



NY and CY, It starts with Nancy, the wife, where for seven months the doctors “put her off” and were not diagnosing her real problem. She was losing strength in her arms and legs, her sensations were going away from her body and her neck pain was getting worse. She could not walk, and God directed

her to a therapist that realized she has a major problem in her neck, and there was pressure in the spinal cord. It's as if God opened his eyes to search for a problem in the neck. Sure enough, severe cervical stenosis and cord compression as a result of arthritis build up, and disc herniation that resulted on the spinal cord compression. It was not "Fibromyalgia" or "depression" that was causing her illness; it was overlooked cervical spinal stenosis (narrowing of the spinal canal causing squeezing of the nerve producing pain). The patient underwent surgical resection of the discs and arthritis at two levels and the two vertebrae were fused together. Postoperatively, it was months of therapy in faith, hope and courage that made her a new person. She returned to her daily activity and her spirits were lifted by her husband. Years later, her husband, Cy, had lower back and leg pain that got worse and worse, that his back became "crocket" and could not walk and was in a wheelchair. The lower back spine got worse in him, and he experienced tremendous pressure in his nerves of the back going to the legs. MRI and CT Scan of the lower back which showed severe multilevel lumbar stenosis. He then underwent surgery where all the calcium builds up was removed. Bony fusion was done without hardware. It was tough early on, and he remained in the hospital for four days. He gradually got stronger and stronger and his wife was at his bedside all the time. He then went home with home health services. He was wearing the low lumbar brace and was weaned off in four months. In the picture, NY and CY appear in joy after completing their illness journey together in faith, hope and courage. It was meant for NY to go first so that she can heal while her husband is faring for her and she will take care of her husband later.

GARY C.

40 years old, had back and leg pain, numbness and tingling on the right side. He was found to have disc herniation at L-4-5, but he also had an underlying condition called spondylolisthesis at the level below L5S1. He went to a neurosurgeon and he was advised to have lumbar fusion using hardware instrumentation. Our opinion differed in such a way that we only recommended removal of the extruded disc at L4-5. He had the surgery in 2007, and continues to do well. Follow up MRI showed no evidence of recurrence. He currently has a cyst in the brain and is being observed.

Gary C. suffered from lower back pain and severe leg pain. "I had been treated conservatively by a chiropractor for about 20 years but the pain got worse," Gary says. "Finally I saw an orthopedic doctor and he did an MRI which showed a badly herniated disk. The chiropractor wanted to continue

his treatment, another neurosurgeon wanted to do a spinal fusion, but Dr. Ghaly said he thought he could fix it without fusion.”

Gary was in the hospital just over 24 hours before he walked out of the hospital, almost pain free. He was back to work two months after surgery.

“I take it one day at a time,” Gary says. “I have a few limitations. I can’t put my kids up on my shoulders like I used to. But I’m living life. I found Dr. Ghaly always willing to listen to my concerns. He said I need to realize my limitations. I keep my core strength up, keep in shape, and try not to carry around extra weight. Most of all I know Dr. Ghaly is there for me if I need him. You have to have faith it will all work out. The trust was the biggest thing for me. I trust Dr. Ghaly. You have to trust your doctor.”

JOHN S.

73 years old man, very articulate and donor to the needy in India. He will literally sit for hours and hours in the computer helping and writing to people. He lost a lot after the death of his wife. His lower back and legs were hurting really bad. He could not put up with this anymore. He would scream at night from severe pain. Finally in 2008, he went for surgery where lumbar laminectomies and bony fusion with no hardware was done. He could not believe that his own kids (3) and grandchildren who loved him dearly will be delighted to care for him after surgery. He liked to be on the top of things, so he will write his question or concern and e-mail it or fax it to his physician. He had three more medical health problems including aortic stenosis, arthritis and hypertension, scoliosis, restless leg syndrome. He traveled to AZ, TN, TX. While he was recovering, he started to have heart difficulty, so he underwent heart surgery, aortic valve replacement and recovered well.

In late 2008 John S., then 73 years old, saw Dr. Ghaly for severe leg pain caused by pinched nerves from spinal stenosis. “Dr. Ghaly told me I needed surgery to ‘clean up the bad bones’ in my spine,” John says. “The surgery went well and I was home in only a few days. Dr. Ghaly said he found a lot of damage. I had some bad pain days after surgery, usually when I had done too much moving around. Today, I have very little pain. They say what pain I feel now is from physical therapy, from the muscles stretching. I get around and do normal things now, just at a slower pace.”

John first saw Dr. Ghaly in 2005. “I had the pain then,” John said. “Dr. Ghaly told me I could use medication to control the pain, but sooner or later I would need surgery. Ghaly doesn’t push surgery. He just lays it all out for you. He says this is what you’ve got, this is where it’s going, and this is where you’ll end up. It all went the way he said it would. Before surgery, every day

was a little bit worse pain-wise, before it starts to build up and you can't stand it any more."

John credits Dr. Ghaly with being especially thorough. He did extensive testing before deciding on surgery. "Ghaly pieces all this together, then he decides," John says. "But I still made the final decision as to whether or not to have surgery. It was the right decision for me."

KAYLA L.

A 32 year old right handed female. Complaining of severe back pain and left and right leg pain, tingling and weakness for 3 months. She is a recreational specialist enjoying a wonderful husband and 2 children. She was fully forward and twisted in her back with inability to stand upright. She tried to lay in floor and change positions with no relief. The MRI of the lumbar spine showed enlarged disc herniation at L5-S1. Strong pain relief medications and chiropractic treatment did not help. She lost 77 pounds. In 2008, she underwent removal of the disc herniation at L5-S1 from both sides via microdiscectomy. She did well and returned to work after short physical therapy course. She feels she is a new person and does charity work to help others.

Kayla L. spent three months in physical therapy for back and neck pain before her therapist recommended Dr. Ghaly. "The therapy just didn't work," she said. "What was so neat was that I remember I called him on a Friday in June, 2008, and left him a message. Then we went out. When we got home there were three messages from him, all placed in about an hour's time period. I called him back and left my cell phone number, and Saturday morning at 8:15 he called back and he got me in that morning. I always felt like I was his most important patient with Dr. Ghaly."

Dr. Ghaly did not like the quality of her MRI, so he arranged for her to get another one taken at another facility. "I had been fighting having surgery because I'm only 31, but Dr. Ghaly said that was what I needed. We had been praying about it and I had a good feeling about Dr. Ghaly. His office is so peaceful. Dr. Ghaly got me into surgery the next Thursday. He called me every day before surgery to check up on me."

The surgery was successful and Gina is back to normal today. "I tell people they wheeled me into surgery with pain in my leg, and wheeled me out without it," Gina says.

She spent two and a half months in physical therapy and says life is back to normal today. "I always tell anyone with a problem to go see Dr. Ghaly: he can fix you!" Gina says. "He's so humble. Every time I try to thank him, he

refuses to take the credit. I tell him I know he wants Jesus to get the credit, all the glory, but it was his hands that did the surgery!”

MOHAMMED S.

56, former military member in Afghanistan. Came to the United States suffering severe back pain, radiating down his legs. He could not move around much. CT scan and MRI showed severe narrowing of the spine, causing a lot of pressure on the nerves supplying the legs. He was taken to surgery and the pressure was removed with L-45 discectomy and the disc was removed. Fusion was done with hardware instrumentation in 2004. He is doing well six years later and inspired his daughter to go to medical school. He is back to work

Mohammed S. had always led a very active life. An officer in the Afghanistan army, Mohammed had started to suffer from disabling back pain. Being limited in his actions was very difficult for him. His daughter, Khatira, who is studying to become a physician, tells his story. “At first,” she says, “my father suffered from pain in his feet. Then he couldn’t walk, sit, or rise from a sitting or prone position. He was in great pain.”

When Mohammed found Dr. Ghaly he was delighted that there was a solution to his pain and disability. Dr. Ghaly suggested spinal fusion surgery, which was then done in February, 2004.

“My father was very happy with the decision to do the surgery,” Khatira says. “After the surgery, slowly, slowly, he began to improve. The recovery process was very exciting for my father, as each day, day-by-day, he began to feel better.”

Dr. Ghaly told him to expect some muscle stiffness, especially when it is cold outside. Mohammed takes muscle relaxants then to help. “My father still has to be careful when holding heavy things, or when lifting them, but otherwise, he is back to normal,” Khatira says. “WE would tell anyone to go for the surgery. It makes a tremendous difference. Just be sure you find a doctor like Dr. Ghaly. We love him! We are his admirers. In fact, he is my model for what I would like to be as a doctor.”

DOROTHY G.

She was complaining of back and leg pain and numbness and tingling. She was a strong mother with grown up children and grandchildren. This pain was disabling to her. She had severe arthritis in her spine in the lower back. After all non surgical treatment did not help, she underwent lumbar decompression surgery where the nerves were freed from the “calcium build up”, stenosis and arthritis. She improved to an extent. She lost her husband and later her son and her grief had a great impact on her.

Dorothy G. had back surgery in 2005 at the age of 78. Her late husband had suffered from a brain tumor and was treated by Dr. Ghaly. “We heard of Dr. Ghaly from a friend and were so impressed with his care of my husband, that when I started having back pain, my daughter said that’s where we were going. There was no question of who we wanted to treat my back!” says Dorothy. “Dr. Ghaly is so up front with you. Dr. Ghaly had offered to do surgery on my husband, but said he could not get the entire tumor if he did. He saw us through it all. Then, when I had a problem with my sciatic nerve and had bulging disks, he took on my case.”

Dorothy was in a lot of pain from this condition. “It was very painful, probably the worst pain I’ve ever suffered in my life,” she says. “He made me jump through hoops before considering surgery, with lots of tests with different doctors. But he finally decided it would be OK to operate.”

Dr. Ghaly did not find a disk problem, but rather he found a lot of debris that was irritating the nerves and causing Dorothy’s pain. Her surgery was done through a small incision and she returned home the same day.

“Recovery was easy,” she says. “He told me exactly what he did. He’s such an amazing man. He’s so humble. He tells patients that it’s not him, but rather it’s God who works the miracles. He puts everything in God’s hands. I’d tell anyone with nerve or back problems to go to see him. I admire him so much. He’s a miracle worker!”

MICHAEL B.

He complained of low back pain and leg pain and numbness and weakness. He was limping and the pain was disabling to him. He continued to work despite the pain until he could not any more. He had complicated spine picture at multiple levels in the MRI. But the important spinal level was L5-s1. So the surgery was restricted to the level that causing him his main complaints. He underwent microdisctomy surgery and the nerve was freed. Five years later he is doing well.

Michael B. complained of back pain for some time. He went to multiple physicians, and was finally referred to Dr. Ghaly. “Dr. Ghaly told me I would eventually need surgery, but he gave me a bunch of other options to try first,” Michael said. “I had great confidence in him because he had fixed my wife’s problem. So I tried physical therapy and cortisone injections. I think it’s a testament to Dr. Ghaly that he does not push surgery on his patients. He treats them conservatively before he turns to surgery.”

But eventually Michael decided on surgery. He was home the same day and says his recovery went smoothly. He did physical therapy for a time and

today is back to normal. “I do have some other issues, caused by arthritis, and some numbness in my legs, as well as some minor pain,” he says. “But I’m so much better today than I was before the surgery!”

Michael says anyone with a similar set of symptoms or diagnosis should go to Dr. Ghaly. “He’s going to look at you as a whole person,” Michael says. “You’re not just your back or neck with him. He met all my family members and talked to them all. He really wants you to get better. He’s so spiritual; it sets you at ease right from the start. I’ve referred others to him, and they have always been very happy. The man is a saint. There’s no other way to describe him.”

JULIA S.

20 years old, was involved in a car accident and had low back pain and disc herniation in the left L5S1 that caused pressure on the nerve root and sent electrical jolts with pain numbness and weakness to the left leg. She underwent in 2000 left microscopic L5S1 discectomy. At a young age, being a student, such injury is very traumatic and needed a lot of support, strength, and faith around her. She will tell you because of her strong faith and family support, she was able to overcome the emotional trauma. Eleven years later she is doing well, with no complaints.

Julia S. had spinal surgery in December, 2000. Her uncle had already been a patient of Dr. Ghaly, and she was aware of his expertise, so choosing him as a logical choice. “I already knew how great Dr. Ghaly was,” she recalls. “I had sciatica, which is very painful, but I still wanted to avoid surgery if possible. I saw Dr. Ghaly, and he suggested I try physical therapy, though he said he thought it would not help. He was right. It did not help. I was in so much pain. I just couldn’t live with the pain anymore.”

Dr. Ghaly told Julia about all the possible complications before the surgery. She decided to go with surgery.

“The surgery went well,” she says. “I had great support from my family and friends, and Dr. Ghaly was amazing. He has such great care and concern for his patients. So very few doctors have that. He was always looking out for my best interests.”

Julia says recovery went well. “I had to be very careful how I moved for a while, probably about a month,” she said. “I rested a lot. You just have to modify the way you move, the way you function after surgery.”

Today, eight years later, Julia says she has no problems. “It’s just incredible,” Julia says. “I’m in a better state because of the surgery. I’m very much more appreciative of my God given abilities. I don’t take my body for granted any more.”

Julia credits Dr. Ghaly with making her life enjoyable again. “Dr. Ghaly is such a gifted and brilliant physician,” she said. “He is also a great friend. I’d tell anyone facing a similar diagnosis not to be petrified of the surgery if you’re in the hands of a great surgeon. You have to trust your doctor and make sure the surgeon has a good success rate and does a lot of these procedures. I don’t know what I would have done if I had not met Dr. Ghaly!”

ELLEN M.

What a great lady with strong positive look at life and things coming in her way. She complained of low back pain and leg pain and numbness and tingling early on. She was not getting the aggressive treatment and work up until she lost strength in her foot “foot drop”. It was already late to get the strength back. She still had leg pain, muscle atrophy and numbness. MRI of the lumbar spine showed the stenosis and disc herniation. She underwent lumbar spinal laminectomy and discectomy at two levels and nerves were freed at L4-5 and L5-S1. All her complaints improved except foot drop. For the following year she underwent three foot surgeries where a tendon can be transposed to help her walking and prevent her fall from “foot drop”. 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.

Ellen M. suffered from back pain. After becoming unhappy with her primary care physician, she called her husband’s rehabilitation doctor. As soon as that doctor saw Ellen, she said she knew what was wrong and ordered an MRI. When the results confirmed her diagnosis, Ellen was referred to Dr. Ghaly.

“As soon as I met Dr. Ghaly I knew he was the one who could help me,” Ellen says. “If a fraction of the other doctors had his dedication and passion, we’d all be better off.”

By this time Ellen had lost the use of her right leg, which was changing color and temperature. “In essence my brain was talking to the spine, but it was not talking to my leg,” Ellen says. “But Dr. Ghaly fixed it all. He went in and did a little housekeeping and the very next morning after surgery I had normal feeling in my big toe once more. But best of all, the pain was gone.”

Ellen says she walks normally now and can wear matching size shoes once more. “I wore different size shoes on my right and left feet for a very long time,” she said. “But after this way cool surgery, all that is gone!”

Recovery took a while, Ellen remembers. “Dr. Ghaly started me in physical therapy right away,” Ellen said. “I did PT for seven months, three times a week. And I did a lot of homework.”

“I told Dr. Ghaly he is a surgeon for all the right reasons,” Ellen said. “Many surgeons are in it so they can buy the real estate or fancy cars. Dr. Ghaly is a surgeon because he truly cares about his patients.”



EHM, her attitude toward her illness and looking beyond the illness was very positive. This is the lesson that I learned from EHM. She underwent Carpal Tunnel Surgery in each hand after years of pain, numbness and tingling. Each hand recovered in two weeks. Earlier, she underwent back surgery because of extruded disc and arthritis build up in the back. Unfortunately, the pressure in the nerve was severe and diagnosed later that the nerve was already

damaged by the time she presented it to a neurosurgeon. She looked at this with faith, hope and courage. She proceeded to do what “needs to be done” and went miles for pursuing other measures to improve the function of the foot and leg. She even flew to another state and had reconstruction surgery of the foot, and recovered a great deal after that. There are some other surgeries that she will go through in the future. Nonetheless, her life continued with great joy, content and faith. She reads, gains knowledge, asks questions and learns about medicine with taking personal notes. She will give it some “thoughts and time” and come back with strong answers and a decision. She carries a busy daily schedule, is very active and does not look at the best. May God continue your courage, and may many patients learn from you.

KAREN L.

37 years old, could not live a single minute more because of the severe pain in her back, radiating down her right leg. She underwent right L5/S1 microscopic discectomy and removal of extruded fragment. She had total recovery of her condition. Five years later she continues to be pain free.

Karen L. had spinal surgery in October, 2005. She had injured her back in August and when she saw Dr. Ghaly he had told her she would need surgery. She said she couldn't fit it in to her busy schedule at the time. But then, in October, her condition worsened. Dr. Ghaly had given her his direct line phone number to his cell phone. He told her to call if she needed him.

“At 5 a.m. I was in such pain I had tremors, was shaking, and hallucinating,” Karen recalls. “I literally could not get out of bed. Within five minutes he was calling me back. He told me I needed immediate emergency surgery or I could be paralyzed. He told me to get to the hospital immediately. He said he would make all the arrangements, and he did. I was in surgery within a few hours.”

By the time Karen called Dr. Ghaly she had major problems. She could not feel her left or foot, and her foot dropped when she tried, unsuccessfully, to walk.

“Dr. Ghaly told me my back had shattered, and he had to clean it all out, relieving pressure on the nerves,” Karen said. “There was all kinds of stuff poking on the nerves, causing my pain. I was in such a bad mental state when I arrived at the hospital, they had to give me medication to calm me down. Then Dr. Ghaly came in and held me hand. He told me what he was going to do. My daughter had given me a little angle when I left for the hospital. Dr. Ghaly said I couldn't take it into the operating room, but that he would put it in his pocket as he did surgery. When I came out of the anesthesia, I found it under my pillow.”

Karen was sent home late that same evening to recover. “Dr. Ghaly had a nurse come out to treat the incision for the next week. Within that week I could take off the wrap I came home in, and I felt great. Dr. Ghaly called daily to see how I was doing. He said I had to take it easy for six months, but after about the first week I was pretty much back to normal activities.”

SCOTT M.

A hardworking man, physical operator, construction worker, had back and leg pain. The pain continued despite the pain relief medications, physical therapy and cortisone intraspinal injections. His spine showed spinal stenosis with arthritis and pressure over the nerves. He underwent lumbar laminectomies and microdiscectomy to relieve the pressure from the nerves. He made remarkable recovery. Ten years later he is still doing well.

Scott M. had two spinal surgeries, about five years apart. In 1999 he started experiencing back pain. He went through conventional treatment, including steroid injections, traction, and therapy. He says he felt good for a while, but the pain returned.

“In 1999 I saw Dr. Ghaly, and he said if the other treatments did not work, my other alternative was surgery,” Scott says. “Several days later Dr. Ghaly took several discs out that had ruptured. I was in the hospital for three days, and 10 days later I started physical therapy. I was back to work in three months. I felt great!”

Scott felt fine for years, suffering only minor twinges. “But Dr. Ghaly had said that sooner or later I would be back for another disc problem,” Scott said. “Then one day I couldn’t get out of bed. I went to the ER and got a shot. We had lost contact with Dr. Ghaly, who had left that hospital. My wife found him on the Internet and the same day he got me in to see him. I had an MRI the same day. Dr. Ghaly said we had to go to surgery NOW after he saw the MRI.”

Several days later Scott reported to the hospital in great pain at 6:30 a.m. By 8:30 p.m. he walked out of the hospital, pain free.

“As soon as I walked in the door of my home, Dr. Ghaly was on the phone, checking up on me,” Scott says. “He must have known just how long it took for me to get home from the hospital!”

Scott did several sessions of therapy, but decided he did not need it because he was feeling so good. Today, Scott is doing well and life is back to normal.

“Dr. Ghaly is a saint in my book,” Scott says. “He’s the greatest man in the world. He called me every day after surgery to check up on me. Soon Dr.

Ghaly will be doing carpal tunnel surgery on my daughter. I keep referring people to him.”

NANCY B.

A great lady serving the nuns for thirty years, complained of severe arthritis in her neck and lower back. She has done everything possible to relief her arthritis pain and numbness. She had stiffness, arms and legs pain and numbness and tingling and weakness. Physical therapy, spinal cortisone injection and pain relief medications did not help her. After years of suffering she reached a decision enough is enough. The MRI of the cervical spine showed severe stenosis at 4 levels C3-4, 4-5, 5-6 and 6-7. The spinal cord was under tremendous pressure. The surgery should be done first in the neck to prevent paralysis from moving the neck and positioning under anesthesia for the lower back. She underwent first cervical spine decompression laminectomies surgery with fusion to relief the severe cervical spinal stenosis. The neck pain, her walking, arms got better. She recovered well from the neck surgery. Then she underwent two level lower back surgery of laminectomies and fusion using hardware. She recovered from both and back to work happy with no complaints. For the neck she required a neck brace for three months and for back she required back brace for 4months.

Nancy B. had two spinal surgeries: one on January, 2009 on her neck; the other a few months later, in March, on her back.

“I had been having trouble some time walking, and had lower back pain,” Nancy remembers. “I saw a chiropractor, and my primary care physician. A friend had used Dr. Ghaly when her son was hurt, and later for her grandson for a brain tumor. Dr. Ghaly came highly recommended by my friend. They just loved him. So I went to see him.”

After an MRI and more tests, Dr. Ghaly told Nancy she had multiple issues in her back and neck. Surgery on the neck was scheduled first. “That went so wonderfully,” Nancy says. “My head is so clear now, I’m like a new person. I can even breathe easier.”

She then called Dr. Ghaly to schedule the back surgery. “I told him I just could not deal with the pain any longer,” she said. “So we set the date and did the surgery. Recovery from the back surgery was even easier than from the neck surgery. It’s great. I’m walking now. It’s just unbelievable. You kinda don’t want to do surgery, but both surgeries turned out great. The neck surgery gave me great relief. I found you don’t have to bounce off walls as you walk down a hallway. It was all because of my neck problems. Today, everything is back to normal. I’m just like a newborn person!”

Nancy says her only cautions now are no bending, no lifting, and no twisting. “Dr. Ghaly says to just remember BLT!” she said. “I have to

consciously remember that because I feel so good now. I can't wait to get back out and doing things again."

Nancy says she has never regretted choosing Dr. Ghaly for the surgeries. "He's so kind, so good, I'm so fortunate to have found him," she says. "I just love him. I want to hug him!"

SAMIRA G.

28 years old, was involved in an auto accident a year and a half before, and suffered from back and leg pain and numbness and weakness. Her pain interfered with her life, in every activity. In 2006 she was taken to surgery and had the last two levels in the spine decompressed and the disc herniation was removed. Four years later she continues to do fairly well.

Samira G. was in a car accident in 2004. She was hit from behind while driving. In November 2006 Dr. Ghaly performed spinal surgery to repair the damage. Her ordeal was lengthy and difficult.

"I went from doctor to doctor and everyone gave me the run-around," she recalls. "I did physical therapy and more. I did aqua therapy, had injections into what we thought we herniated disks, all of it. No one wanted to order an MRI. After about six months in physical therapy, my therapist said I should get an MRI. Finally, I got one."

Her parents had good friends who had Dr. Ghaly do surgery, so he came highly recommended. "But I was hesitant to go for surgery," Samira said. "I was so young, only 28. But then I started limping on my left leg. It was all caused by the accident, and started several hours after the accident."

Samira finally decided to go for surgery. "Recovery went really well," she says. "I was nervous, but I'm so glad I did it. I have my life back!"

Today, Samira says she tries to exercise regularly and take good care of herself. She says she would recommend surgery, based on each person's condition.

"It depends on where they're at," she says. "I heard of people who can go without surgery, but I was having nerve damage. Then you hear about the bad surgical outcomes people may have. My husband had a co-worker who had a botched surgery, and that scared me."

Finding the right doctor is paramount, Samira said. "Dr. Ghaly not only treats you physically, but mentally," she says. "And even after you have surgery, you have to be careful, be aware of how you move. Stretch, and take care of yourself."

JULIE G.

41 years old, suffered from Left lumbar 4-5 disc herniation that caused severe back and leg pain, numbness and tingling. It was a stabbing, toothache electric volt-like pain. Medication did not help at all. MRI showed extruded L4-5 disc herniation and she underwent left L4-5 microscopic discectomy and removal of extruder fragment and freeing the nerve from the pressure.

Julie G. had spinal surgery in September 2003. She had been suffering severe pain down her leg and back.

"I saw a neurologist, and that was a nightmare," Julie said. "They lost my MRI. Finally I was referred to Dr. Ghaly. By then I was in such intense pain I was taking major pain medications."

Dr. Ghaly ordered another MRI and said she had been misdiagnosed and needed surgery. The surgery was scheduled, with successful outcomes.

"Two weeks later I came in to Dr. Ghaly's office for a check-up and they did not recognize me," Julie says. "When I first came in I was in such pain, and then after only two weeks, it was like a whole new me!"

"Dr. Ghaly was awesome!" Julie says. "I would not let anyone else operate on me but him. He called me often to see how I was doing. He even explained everything in detail to my husband. He even had a physical therapist come to my home. Today, I'm only bothered if I lift something too heavy, or over do it. I might get some minor pain in my lower back. But that's all. I'm doing extremely well."

ALAN B.

He underwent two previous spine surgeries with no good relief, he can point to the right leg where his pain, numbness and tingling. He used to be active, running, doing things and lived by himself independent. Nothing helped his leg pain. He still had some pressure and disc extrusion can explain his leg pain. So he underwent re-exploration of the L4-5 and L5-S1 in the right side and underwent microdiscectomy and decompression. The nerves were freed. After the surgery he experienced relief of his pain and continued to work and studying in the school for more education.

Alan B. had several surgeries on his back, in both 2001 and 2003, with other surgeons. But neither gave him much relief. Then, as his pain continued, Alan found he was no longer able to live life comfortably. He still tried to maintain his active lifestyle, but was not being successful.

"One day I awoke and was essentially paralyzed," Alan says. "I had lifted weights several days before, and now had numbness and more pain."

Alan was referred to Dr. Ghaly, who told him he needed surgery immediately. "It's incredible," Alan says. "Dr. Ghaly is incredible. I'm stronger, healthier and better than I have been in a long time."

Alan had surgery with Dr. Ghaly in 2009. He still experiences some minor numbness in his foot, but otherwise is doing well.

"The other two doctors just didn't do much for me," Alan says. "They were not what I'd call negligent, but they sure were not Dr. Ghaly. They were not doctors who care about their patients. Dr. Ghaly called me every day, twice a day, to check on how I was doing!"

Alan holds a master's degree in divinity, so it was important to him that Dr. Ghaly was such a devote Christian. "I would tell anyone facing a similar diagnosis, to find the right neurosurgeon," Alan says. "He does amazing things, partnering with God to save people."

RONALD K.

63 year old man suffered from severe lower spinal stenosis, scoliosis and severe pain for years. He had to stoop forward to get some relief. He had been suffering for 7 months. He suffered for so many years since 1995 with low back pain and leg pain but not this severe. He could not do much with no relief despite back cortisone injection and therapy. He also was obese of big build and has gout and takes many medications that were not helping his pain. Any walking or activity would make his pain worse. The pain was 10 of 10 regardless of any intervention. On 2009, he underwent spinal laminectomies and fusion with instrumentation at three levels. He had the brace with no driving or lifting or back bending for three months. He surprised all of us. He stayed in the hospital for 4 days. He was ready to go home and was motivated to get stronger and stronger. His wife and children stood at his bedside. He went back to driving and enjoying his life with not much complaints. His legs and back felt great.

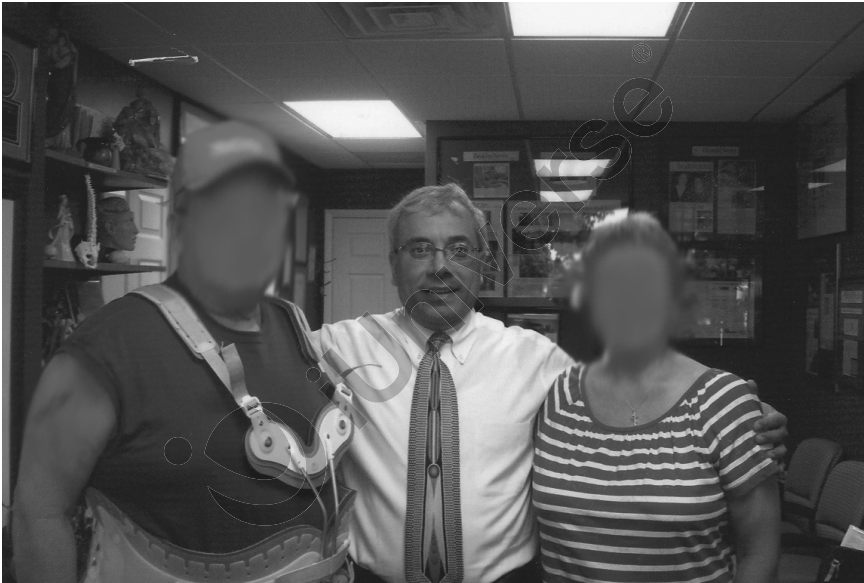
Ronald K. had lumbar fusion surgery in April 2009. Ronald had gone to many orthopedic physicians complaining of sciatic nerve pain. Finally, one of the orthopedists took an MRI and told him he needed to see a surgeon. Ronald was referred to a surgeon, but the appointment could not be scheduled for many weeks. In the meantime, someone recommended Dr. Ghaly. "On a whim, I drove up to Dr. Ghaly's office, without an appointment of anything," Ronald said. "I just walked in, hoping at least I could schedule an appointment in the near future. But Dr. Ghaly met me there, looked at my MRI, and examined me right then. Dr. Ghaly said I needed surgery, as soon as possible. I was worried. I didn't know this doctor at all, and now he was telling me I needed surgery."

“When my wife and I got home, my daughter looked Dr. Ghaly up on the computer, and she was impressed with his credentials. Four days later I was in the hospital, the pain was gone, and I was on the road to recovery.”

Ronald’s wife says the whole process was compassionate and comfortable, from start to finish. “Dr. Ghaly’s patients become his family,” Sue K. says. “He takes pictures of them with him in the hospital. Dr. Ghaly was there in Ron’s room at 4 a.m. I asked him if he lived at the hospital!”

Ronald had home care nurses and in home physical therapy for a while, and then graduated to out patient therapy.

“I’d tell anyone facing a similar diagnosis to make sure they have Dr. Ghaly as their surgeon,” Ronald says. “I would tell them to not be afraid. I had no fear. I just had this Godly-like feeling I was in the right hands.”



RK, could not walk any longer from the severe pain, numbness and weakness in his legs. His back was hurting. He suffered for years from spinal stenosis, scoliosis and arthritis. It gradually was pushing on the nerves in the back going to his legs. Finally, he became incapacitated after trying other conservative measures. The lower spine was much involved and he required lengthy surgery with spinal decompression and fusion using hardware at multiple levels. His faith, hope and courage did not leave him, his wife or his kids. He woke up after a lengthy surgery in recovery care unit and was then sent to the regular ward. The back incision was healing; he did not need much of heavy pain medications, his breathing exercises continued as well as his activity. He was able to urinate and have “bowel movements”. After four days, he went home

for care to be continued. His wife and children with home health services were caring for him. Ten days later, he came to the office with his brace looking great. Never too late when after you retire, to have surgery and care for your life. He required the heart, lung and primary physicians to run some tests and ensure that he will tolerate the surgery. Vigilance care and paying attention to details are essential. A year later he is a new man doing the good work of God.

MARY H.

Mary H. had spinal surgery in 1999. "Dr. Ghaly fused four discs in my neck with a metal plate," Mary said. "And I'm still one of his patients! In fact, our whole family has become patients!"

Mary suffered an accident at work, as she was driving a forklift truck. "It started with problems in my neck," she recalls. "I couldn't turn my head, and had numbness in my arms."

She tried physical therapy, but it did not work. Dr. Ghaly found the discs were bulging and pressing on her spinal cord, causing her pain and other symptoms.

"I just had so much confidence in Dr. Ghaly," Mary said. "He's there for his patients. He makes time for his patients."

So, when her son started having back problems, it was only logical to turn to Dr. Ghaly once more. "Dr. Ghaly did very successful back surgery on him, also," says Mary. "And then, my nephew also had him do surgery on him. All three of us are doing amazingly well!"

MARILYNN B.

A 72 years old female, a wife of a Presbyterian minister, suffered for many years with back spine pain and sciatica, pain and numbness and heaviness of both legs for years (30-40 years). She has been through all kind of treatment for years including injections in the spine, pain relief medications and physical therapy. She was given wrong diagnosis of schizophrenia. She had irritable bowel syndrome and fibromyalgia. Her spine MRI and x-rays showed severe stenosis and narrowing of her spine at multiple levels from L3 to S1 and spondylolithesis and spondylosis. She underwent surgical decompression at these levels with fusion and using the hardware instrumentation. Prior to surgery, she underwent medical tune up and correction of her long standing diagnosis of schizophrenia. Currently she is very active and has never felt as good and able to do as much. Her surgery was in August of 2009.

MariLynn B. had spinal fusion surgery in June 2007. She suffered from curvature of the spine and stenosis, which caused her great pain. "I had done

the chiropractor, and been told I had fibromyalgia,” she says. “After that diagnosis, every pain you just blame on the fibromyalgia. I had had back pain for years, but you just get through the day with it. I even went to a pain management doctor in 2005-and he gave me injections. I guess I’d tell anyone with this kind of pain to not give in to yourself.”

MariLynn returned to the pain management physician and had a second round of injections. “After that I was feeling so good, I actually cancelled the third round of injections,” she says. “But then everything fell apart. I suffered through the holidays, and after a third injection in January did not work, I decided to schedule surgery, even though my husband, Glenn, did not encourage me to consider surgery. But I just could not continue to live that way!”

MariLynn was already acquainted with Dr. Ghaly because her daughter had neck surgery some 9 years ago. “It was his caring follow-up that I’ve never experienced before with any doctor that sold me on him to do my surgery as well,” she recalls. “I remember he was actually on a cruise and called to check up on my daughter. He found out she was back in the hospital with a blood clot, and that they gave her the wrong medicine. He told them to get her off that medicine immediately! Truly Dr. Ghaly is called to do God’s work!”

“It does take faith-faith in your doctor, in what he or she does, and not in insurance,” says Glenn, a retired Lutheran minister. “I was impressed that Dr. Ghaly wanted me involved in everything. I watched and saw that his patients always come in as a family. He really treats the whole family!”

The surgery went well, but recovery was slow. MariLynn wore a brace for 6 months or longer. “Dr. Ghaly told me recovery from this type of surgery could take a year and a half or more, because of the fusion and the bone having to grow in,” MariLynn says. “But I’m feeling so much better now. I usually walk up stairs without trouble, without pulling myself up like a pulley. I’ve gone for walks. I started at doing three-quarters of a mile in 40 minutes, and now I’m down to 22 minutes.”

“We had some unique experiences in Dr. Ghaly’s office,” says Glenn. “We talked with other patients and found out just how important being an advocate for the patient can be. Some folks just can’t handle this kind of commitment as caregivers. This was the first time in my marriage I had to face a major health issue. We were focused on having a choice: to either become an invalid, or to live life. We chose living.”

Finding a way to help the patient through recovery is a dilemma faced by many. “Dr. Ghaly is very open and direct about how important the family is in patient care,” Glenn said. “Some people get threatened by having to give this kind of care. People get turned off by illness. Being a patient advocate is crucial. You have to find ways and means to get the care the patient needs.” Glenn and

MariLynn said you have to focus on your goal and work toward that goal. Sharing that goal with others makes a tremendous difference.

“We knew of Dr. Ghaly from our daughter’s surgery, and he almost acts as an evangelist, telling patients and their families ‘You can do it!’” Glenn says. “The caregiver has to live it with the person. That’s what we tell people when we recommend Dr. Ghaly. He really is unique in the medical world. He’s a rather amazing person.”

“The participation of the family as caregivers is so important that Dr. Ghaly actually changed the date of my surgery because he had another patient whose family would not step up as caregivers,” MariLynn said. “Dr. Ghaly actually refused to do their surgery because of it. Before I was released from the hospital I overheard another physician talking with a patient, trying to get a commitment about who would be caring for them once they returned home. I relate to that. I really needed someone her 24/7. My husband saw parts of my body he never saw before! I even needed help with toilet paper issues.”

“You don’t realize, it’s critically important to have total commitment on the part of the person who will be the caregiver,” Glenn said

RICHARD F.

Richard F. was an electrician at the hospital. He was told he had a ‘construction’ back, the kind of condition many of those involved in the building trades develop. One day, while working in the imaging department, he overheard a conversation between a patient and the radiologist. The patient was asked who his doctor was, and he answered a Dr. Ghaly. The radiologist said he was the best, and the patient agreed. There was a lengthy conversation about how good this doctor was, and how caring he was about his patients.

“Then, when my back got worse, I sought out Dr. Ghaly,” Richard says. “Thank God I did!”

Dr. Ghaly told Richard he would need surgery eventually, but that they should try physical therapy first.

“I did the therapy, and got better,” Richard says. “Then, several years later, it got bad again, so I returned to see Dr. Ghaly. He said to try therapy again, only this time he said I had stenosis, scoliosis, and five bad discs. But Dr. Ghaly said as long as I was making progress with the therapy, to put off the surgery as long as possible. I couldn’t imagine a surgeon not rushing to do surgery!”

Dr. Ghaly said as long as Richard did not have neurological symptoms, he should not rush into surgery. “He said I may need it someday, but to put it off as long as I can,” Richard says.

Dr. Ghaly's faith-based practice of medicine was important to Richard. "My wife and I went to Bosnia to one of the major Christian sites and we are counselors for St. Michael's Ministry with Holy Cross Catholic Church in Batavia," Richard said. "We do grief counseling there, after extensive training."

Richard said grief is something we all have to go through, and that it helps if you have someone to hold your hand. "WE have to be able to read people," he says. "It's a lot of listening. We don't offer any answers. But we reassure people there's a light at the end of the tunnel. With time the pain lessens. It may never go away completely, but life goes on."

SANDRA G. AND RANDY M.

Randy W., a well known man in his area and church, strong and high stature goes weekly and regularly to the church to be part of chorale. All of sudden woke up with terrible pain, numbness and tingling to the right leg. The pain went down to his knees, he was crying and turning from side to side and was not able to eat or to do much. The MRI showed large disc herniation at L2-3 that was extruded on the side rather than inside the canal as it commonly does. The extruded disc was pushing in the most sensitive part of the nerve and its ganglion. Nothing helped him, injection, and therapy and pain medications. He was taken to surgery and a lateral micro-discectomy was done and the extruded fragment was removed. He did great and went back to his family and church. He is instrumental to opening his spiritual camp to the public.

Sandra G, his wife, for many years, she is among the board members of a hospital. Board members run the hospital and any decision made should be approved by the Board. In fact, the directors of a hospital are nominated by the board. USA government has made a wise system which involves the local board of trustee to run the hospital as a recognized public facility to better serve the community. The board members are selected from the community where the hospital is located with diversity enough to represent the people of the community. The Board of Trustee are responsible for the hospital and its service to the community. She served in the board and learned firsthand about the hospital and its service. She made sure, she will do everything in her power to raise the standard of the hospital and to better serve the community. She had no hesitation to decline her position if she noticed that the hospital is not doing what it is supposed to do for its people. Her dad was suffering from multiple medical problems including heart and cancer and she stood by him all the way learning more about the delivery of care and what is good, and what is not perfect, in healthcare system. Her husband also suffered from sciatica and was in terrible pain and required spinal surgery. She loved God very much and concentrated her life and her family life including husband and kids to the

Lord Jesus. She established a holistic treatment camp center with a small zoo for people. Many churches have used, and continued to use, their spiritual center to be closer to the Lord.

Sandra G. had spent many years on the hospital board, so when her husband, Randy M. started experiencing severe pain, they thought he would receive the best of medical care. Doctors diagnosed him with a pulled groin muscle and told him to rest. But the severe pain did not go away.

“He was in such pain that he literally wanted to die,” Sandra recalls. “I hid all the guns from him because I feared he might take things into his own hands. It turns out my husband was misdiagnosed and mistreated by all our local doctors. Finally, I contacted Dr. Ghaly.”

Dr. Ghaly immediately ordered further testing, which was performed that day. Dr. Ghaly told Sandra to bring Randy to his office as soon as the tests were completed.

“We had the tests done right away, were given the results immediately, and drove them to Dr. Ghaly’s office,” Sandra said. “It took Dr. Ghaly about six minutes to look at the tests and diagnose a herniated disc! He said surgery was our only option, but that we should take some time to think about it. He knew patients need some time to wrap their heads around the need for surgery.”

The surgery was scheduled and was successful. “Dr. Ghaly is so caring, he truly is every patient’s best advocate,” Sandra said. “Since then we’ve sent some friends from Saudi Arabia to him. They could have had any doctor in the world, but they found the best care with Dr. Ghaly.”

Sandra says every patient needs an advocate. “Tell everyone to find a doctor like Dr. Ghaly,” she says. “Every patient should realize it’s free choice. Find a doctor you connect with, who will become your advocate, not an advocate for the hospital administration.

“Dr. Ghaly doesn’t play the game. He is truly a gift from God. My husband is a new man. Dr. Ghaly even recommended a new doctor for his diabetes, and now Randy’s blood sugar is under control. Dr. Ghaly called every day to check up on Randy, and, amazingly, this new diabetes doctor gave us his cell phone number so we could call every day to give him Randy’s blood sugar numbers so he could adjust the medication.”

Sandra says Randy is doing well now, free of pain. “It’s like I have my husband back once more. Dr. Ghaly is the first doctor I know who speaks out. He is successful because God uses him as a tool to perform miracles. And he’s a one-man show-he does it all. He doesn’t depend on others to care for his patients. He touches every life in a special way.”

MICHELLE H.

A 37 years old female successfully lost 140 pounds from 380 pounds after stomach band surgery in 1996. She complained of numbness, tingling and pain in the extremities in 2005. She has some carpal tunnel syndrome and depression. Her family stood by her. Conservative treatment was implemented. She continued with some pain. In 2009, pain got so severe going to the left leg and she gained back weight to 325 pounds. The MRI of the lumbar spine showed increase herniation in the L4-5 disc material. Now she is 41 years old and pain relief medication, spinal injections and therapy did not help. She underwent left L4-5 microdiscectomy where the herniated disc material was removed. She woke up new person with minimal pain or numbness. Within three months, she went back to work and pleased with her recovery.

Michelle H. had lumbar disc surgery in June 2009. She had been in such severe pain that she was unable to walk. "A chiropractor and physical therapist had tried everything possible, all with no relief from the pain," Michelle says. "I even had injections into the spine twice, but they did not help either. I was all twisted up and in excruciating pain."

Michelle had back problems since she was in her 20's. Add to that the wear and tear of daily life, and she was in so much pain she was unable to function. "I never knew when my back would go out, or what activity would cause it to go out," she says. "Then a friend who had brain surgery recommended Dr. Ghaly. He had saved her life and she told me I would be in good hands."

Michelle felt comfortable from the first visit. "There's just an infinite peace about this man," she said. "You just don't worry. I tell everybody about him. I praise him from the rooftops-from the top of mountains! Today I'm doing wonderfully. In fact I have to remind myself to take it a little easy, since I had major surgery not all that long ago!"

Michelle says she was amazed when she came out of surgery, there was no pain. "I remember lying there and thinking I was finally out of the pain," she recalls. "Yes, I had some discomfort from the surgery, but the pain was gone."

Dr. Ghaly's care of his patients amazed Michelle. "Even when I was still in the hospital, he made sure I got the best of care from everyone," she says. "One day the nurse was having a hard time getting an IV started. He came in, saw the problem, and just took over and did it himself. No doctor starts their own IV's!"

The care continued after Michelle returned home. "The nurse and physical therapist who visited me at home were great."

Michelle says surgery can be scary, but she tells people to find the right surgeon. "It was scary, but Dr. Ghaly tells you everything that could go

wrong,” Michelle said. “He goes over it all. He doesn’t sugar coat it, but he makes you feel safe. You’re not going to face it by yourself. You know he will be right there. So I wasn’t afraid. I knew Dr. Ghaly would help me to get to be where I needed to be. God works magic through Dr. Ghaly’s hands. Somehow, I really believe they are connected!”

JOANN R.

For many years she had been suffering of severe low back and leg pain and numbness and tingling. She would hunch forward and lean on a cart in order to feel some relief. She exhausted all non surgical treatment, including cortisone injections, pain relief medications and physical therapy. Her lower spine was stepped forward one spine level L5 over another S1, a condition called spondylolisthesis. Finally she could not tolerate the painful condition and being bedridden unable to do her own shopping or house activity. Complete medical and cardiac work up was done to ensure her safety by surgery. She was taken to surgery and decompression where all the arthritis and bony spurs were removed. The spinal fusion using hardware instrumentation was done with pedicle screws. A brace was applied to her back for three months and she continued to recover well. Her x-ray showed good fusion and decompression. She is currently happy and back to all her daily activities.

Joann R. had been in terrible pain for more than three years when she met Dr. Ghaly. “I just thought I was getting old,” she says. “I am after all 76 years old.” One day she found she could not walk to get to the phone. Her primary physician referred Dr. Ghaly to her. “Talking about lumbar fusion surgery was pretty scary at first,” Joann remembers. “I actually met with Dr. Ghaly more than once when I was considering the surgery. He told me I needed to make up my own mind, because there were possible side effects and complications to this kind of surgery.”

Joann says she’s glad she eventually decided on the surgery, which was done in 2008. “After the surgery there was never any more pain,” she says. “I only have a little stiffness now, especially after a long time sitting still, and in the mornings when I get up.”

Joann says Dr. Ghaly told her she would need help after the surgery while she was recovering. “I didn’t believe him, but he was right,” she said. “My son moved in with me and took care of me for three or four months. My church prayed for me as well. I was so fortunate to have such a good support system. The church ladies would bring me lunch and visit for a while. They even helped with cleaning.”

Finding the right surgeon was also crucial, Joann says. “I can’t say enough good things about Dr. Ghaly,” she said. “He looked after me and took such

good care of me. He's so wonderful, and so serious about his patients. He called me every day to check up on me after I went home. I only have a tiny scar now. Dr. Ghaly took away all that pain. It was so bad it brought tears to my eyes. Now I am pain free."

Joann says she still uses a chair in the shower and an extended commode, but other than those two things, life is normal once more. "I was feeling so good I was out all day partying on my 76th birthday," she says. "I could never have been doing that without the surgery. I was very comfortable with Dr. Ghaly. He's a good Christian man and I was very grateful for that. That's a good feeling."

EDGAR M.

For years he has been serving the country. He retired and started to complain of severe low back pain and leg pain and numbness and tingling. He has been suffering and went to many centers and saw various physicians. He has severe spinal stenosis with calcium build up. He had cortisone injections, pain relief medication and therapy with no relief. He was in his late 70's and underwent spinal decompression laminectomies, foraminotomies and discectomy and fusion using hardware. The fusion involved several levels from L2-3, L3-4, L4-5, L5-S1. Before spinal surgery, he underwent carpal tunnel release surgery to get his hand stronger to help him with the recovery after the spinal surgery. He is a great example that surgery can be done in late age as long as his medical condition tolerates the surgery and the patient has positive family support.

Edgar M. suffered with such deep pain that he said he no longer wanted to go on living. "I was in pain all the time, especially when I walked," he says. "I had a friend who was a nurse, and she recommended Dr. Ghaly. She said if she needed surgery there was no one she would allow to do it but Dr. Ghaly. She was right. He said he'd take the pain away, and he was right. That's just what he did."

Edgar's surgery in 2006 went well and he was back at home to recover in three days. "My wife, brother-in-law and daughter all took very good care of me," he recalls. "I have no problems now. I did physical therapy, and that helped. I still can't lift heavy things, but I'm 82 years old!"

"I'm an old nurse," says Edgar's wife. "I am so impressed with Dr. Ghaly. He carefully did a complete history and after surgery he followed Edgar very closely. He treated the whole person, not just my husband's back. When Edgar complained about shortness of breath, Dr. Ghaly insisted we see a cardiologist. They found a 90 percent blocked artery in his heart and he had

two stents placed in his heart. Dr. Ghaly just insisted we follow up and see the cardiologist.”

Edgar was familiar with Dr. Ghaly from previous surgery when Dr. Ghaly did carpal tunnel surgery on both hands. “I’m so pleased with Dr. Ghaly,” Edgar says. “He cares so much about his patients.”

“All doctors should be as caring,” says Edgar’s wife. “He’s just a fine doctor.”

RICHARD S.

Richard complained of severe low back pain, leg pain, numbness and tingling. He could not walk for any distance, even when just started to stand, he will feel the severe achy pain down to his legs and heaviness that he had to set up. He exhausted all non surgical treatment, including pain relief medication, therapy, injection. The MRI showed severe stenosis at multiple lumbar spine levels from L2-3, L3-4, L4-5 and L5-S1. He underwent multilevel lumbar laminectomies and bony fusion without instrumentation. His recovery needed a lot of medical care. He used the back brace for three months. His back was healing better and all his symptoms went away. He recovered well and two years later is happy and doing well without much of complaints.

Richard S. had been in pain with his back for a dozen years or more. He had tried everything—from physical therapy to pain management to epidural injections. Nothing gave him relief from the constant pain. “Finally two doctors recommended Dr. Ghaly,” Richard says. “My pain management physician had been Ghaly’s ‘boss’ when he was a resident anesthesiologist. My chiropractor also recommended him.”

The surgery, done in 2007, took eight and a half hours but was successful, giving Richard relief from his long time pain. “I had the surgery on a Friday, and on Sunday when Dr. Ghaly came in to see me I was in awful pain,” Richard says. “My arthritis was causing the pain and the nurses had been ignoring me. I told Dr. Ghaly and I never saw that nurse again. Dr Ghaly literally lifted me up to reposition me and make me more comfortable. After I went home he called every day to see how I was doing.”

Today, Richard still has some arthritis in his back, but the discomfort from that is easily controlled with over-the-counter pain relievers. “I take 30 minute walks and am back to my normal life,” he says. “It took some time to get back to normal, but I’m so much better now.”

Richard has some tips for anyone facing lumbar fusion surgery. He says it was scarier than anything else. “I think it was the psychological more than physical stress,” he says. “My wife was a wonderful nurse, and I really found I needed help post surgery. Dr. Ghaly told her exactly what to do. The worst

part was I ad a hospital bed and hated it. Once I got rid of it and moved to my own bed, things were much better. I also had a home nurse and therapist, thought I did not use them much. I'd say the surgery was really worth it. I am pain free now and enjoying life once more."

WILLIAM F.

A 40 years old gentleman was suffering from 15 years of back pain and gradually got worse and pain, numbness and weakness went down to his legs. He came bedridden to the clinic with agonizing pain. The MRI and X-rays showed L4-5 disc herniation and nerve root compression. There was also calcium build up in his spine. He could not do any activity. He was self employed and tried to the last minute to do the work that must be accomplished with deadlines. He underwent surgical decompression, removing the disc herniated materials and bone spurs in September 2009. The surgery had to be done in both sides to prevent paralysis and increase pressure while removing the herniated disc materials. He had no loss of his bladder function. He is back to work within two weeks, finishing all the clients deadline jobs.

William F. had a lumbar discectomy in August 2009. He was referred to Dr. Ghaly by another patient. William had had back pain for a long time, but he says he was hesitant about having back surgery because of all the horror stories he had heard about the surgery.

"I think that if I had any advice to give someone with similar symptoms, it would be to do your research and not be afraid of this surgery," William says. "It is not like it was 10 years ago. I would not have put it off so long, and suffered so much, if I knew more about the surgery."

William was experiencing shooting pain down his left leg by the time he saw Dr. Ghaly. William was told he needed surgery. He spent one day in the hospital and then returned home. Within a week and a half he says he was feeling good, and within a month was doing really well. He started physical therapy, which helped him return to normal activities sooner.

"I tell others with back pain, it only gets worse, so take care of it and don't be in pain any longer," William says. "Find a great doctor, too. Dr. Ghaly is an amazing physician and surgeon, and a great guy. He made sure I understood everything, and then made sure my wife also did. After surgery he would call to see how I was doing, then he would check with my wife to make sure I was doing well."

CAROL K.

A 58 years old female presented with severe low back pain, numbness and tingling in the lower extremities. She is very anxious person and the suffering became unrelenting. She has been suffering for seven years and therapy, injections in the spine and medications did not help. The MRI, CAT scan and X-rays of the lumbar spine showed severe stenosis, arthritis and pressure in the nerve roots at L4-5 and L5-S1. Condition called spondylosis. While talking and examining the patient, there was some concern about her neck and pain in the upper back that thought it is due to the lower back. MRI of the cervical spine in the neck showed severe cord compression and arthritis in the neck at multiple levels from C4 to C7. To prevent paralysis from the cord compression while doing the surgery for the lower back, she underwent the neck surgery first. The discs were totally removed from the front at three levels and fusion of the three levels together using screws and one plate placed behind the trachea and esophagus. The surgery was done in 2009. She did well and a lot of improvement in her arms and neck. ^ Weeks later, she underwent surgical decompression and fusion in the lower back at L4-5 and L5-S1. She did great with not much of pain, numbness or tingling. She was very compliant and used the brace for the neck and brace on the lower back. Within three months, she went back to work very happy and content.

Carol K. had two surgeries; one on her cervical spine in June 2009, and six weeks later on her lumbar spine. Her problems began in early fall, when her leg starting acting like it would give out on her when she got up from a prone or sitting position. She also experienced hip pain.

"I went to my primary care physician, who sent me to an orthopedist," she recalls. "Then I started physical therapy, and even had three cortisone injections. My symptoms baffled everyone. I would start to get better, and then regress. The orthopedist said he did not want to do surgery because he could not guarantee it would help. I decided it was time to see another doctor. My brother-in-law had Dr. Ghaly do surgery, and I remembered how his whole family raved about this doctor. I made an appointment."

Dr. Ghaly was also baffled by Carol's symptoms, but he did not like the quality of the films she brought with her from her tests. He ordered further testing, and got better images, including images higher up Carol's back."

"Dr. Ghaly quickly found trouble in my cervical spine, with a lot of stenosis," Carol says. "But neck surgery was tricky, because I had had thyroid surgery. Dr. Ghaly was concerned about going in from the front of my neck because he needed to preserve my vocal cords. Fortunately, my previous surgeon had done a good job, and everything went well. I had some swelling, and a bit of hoarseness, but am back to normal now."

Six weeks later Dr. Ghaly did the lumbar spine surgery six weeks later. “He was amazed at how bad the arthritis was in my lumbar spine,” Carol said. “It took him nine and a half hours to repair my lumbar spine.”

Recovery was a challenge. “Dr. Ghaly gave me the best Christmas present ever, he said I did not have to wear the back brace any longer,” Carol said. “Dr. Ghaly was incredible as I recovered. The day after surgery he came in and helped me get out of bed. He washed my face, and when he found some blood in my hair, he washed my hair. He did a wonderful job of managing my pain. So, today, I’m back to work and returning to normal.”



CK, If Surgery in the spine is done correctly, carefully and to the right person, no matter how extensive, good results are to be expected. C K. underwent two surgeries back to back, one for cervical neck spine, and the other for the lower lumbar spine. Both surgeries were very much involved with spinal fusions. The nerves were in a lot of pressure. Her and her husband always had faith, courage and hope and helped each other to the end. The back brace was discontinued and she is back to work praising God with very little pain.

MICHAEL B.

Michael B. had spinal surgery in August 2008. He had been a firefighter/EMT for 17 years and says those years of carrying heavy objects and moving patients took their toll on his back. "I know my injury was from work, but I always thought you just got sore and then worked through it," Michael says. "Then, about a year before the surgery, it was pretty bad. I saw a doctor and took some muscle relaxants, and went on with life."

About a year after that, Michael experienced extreme pain at home. "I went to a great chiropractor who uses gentle therapy, but when I did not see any improvement after four visits, she ordered an MRI," he recalls. "Then she said I should see a neurosurgeon. I knew of Dr. Ghaly and called him. He got me in to see him the same day. After more tests, he said only surgery would help."

Golf is Michael's passion, and it was important that he be able to return to the links soon after surgery. "In fact, I told Dr. Ghaly that if I couldn't golf, to forget the whole thing," Michael says. "I was back on the course in six months-allowing for several months of winter when I didn't play anyway!"

Surgery went well and recovery was steady improvement. Today, Michael still has moments when his back reminds him it is not as spry as it once was, but otherwise he's back to normal. As for the golf game, he says he can't blame his failings on his back!

Michael tells others with back pain to consider pursuing treatment earlier. "If you hurt your back, take care of it," he says. "Get the best of care right away!"

SUE S.

Not all patients with spinal problems require surgery. Sue S. is one of Dr. Ghaly's patients who clearly did not require surgery, but she almost had surgery by another doctor with a misdiagnosis.

"I had been having pain in my back for some time, after I had hernia surgery," Sue recalls. "I went to a pain clinic, endured three rounds of injections, and was told I had herniated discs. Finally, the doctor told me I

was not taking my pain medication as I should be, required surgery, and told me not to come back. He was rude and insulting to me.”

Sue’s husband is a Joliet fireman and he knew of several patients who had seen Dr. Ghaly, so he told her she should see him. “I contacted Dr. Ghaly, got an appointment within the week, and actually spent six hours with him on my first visit. He put a set of MRI films on the viewer and said ‘This is a perfect back’. I assumed he was showing me another patient’s films to compare them then with mine. Then he told me it was my back. He asked me who told me I had herniated discs—who had written my report after viewing my films.”

Dr. Ghaly had sent her to his preferred MRI because he wanted to be sure the quality of the films was excellent.

“This was a first,” Sue says. “He asked all kinds of questions about my history, my past, my lifestyle. No one had asked about any arthritis in the family. But Dr. Ghaly did. My tests came back and he said there was a problem with my pelvis, probably caused by the abdominal pain after my hernia surgery. ‘You do not need surgery’, he said.”

Dr. Ghaly called a physical therapy practice, Women Serving Women, and within 15 minutes two therapists from there were in his office, consulting with him and evaluating her. A plan of therapy was devised and she underwent therapy for about six months.

“I still do what they taught me every morning,” Sue says. “I was amazed that a surgeon did not recommend surgery. Dr. Ghaly is an amazing person and doctor. He could have taken me and done surgery, but he steered me to these physical therapists and I’m a whole new person now!”

BONNIE E.

49 years old, suffered from a broken neck after a domestic abuse incident that caused her weakness, numbness, and tingling in both arms and legs. She underwent removal of herniated cervical disc and fusion to hold the bone together at C3-4 in 2005. It took her two years to revoke and she did very well. At the age of 53 she suffered from increasing lower back pain, numbness and tingling that made her immobile and the CAT scan and MRI of the lower spine showed severe narrowing in the lower lumbar spine and spondylolisthesis at L-3-L4/S1. She underwent in 2009 repair of her spine and fusion. She was also found to be on blood thinners so we helped her to get a second opinion and it was advised to end the blood thinners.

Bonnie E. had lumbar fusion surgery in late December 2009. She saw Dr. Ghaly about four years ago and he told her then she would eventually need surgery. But, just coming out of an abusive marriage, she says she was

not ready emotionally for surgery, and she was getting along fairly well. A chiropractor told her she had suffered a broken neck, and his adjustments kept her functional.

“I had a wonderful chiropractor, and he kept me going until last December,” Bonnie recalls. “But then he told me to see Dr. Ghaly because it was time for the surgery. So that’s what I did.”

Surgery went well and Bonnie is recovering amazingly well. “Actually I think I’m giving Dr. Ghaly heart attacks because I’m doing so well,” she says. “I have some pain from the surgery, but all my other symptoms are gone. I’ll have to wear a brace, not turn, twist, bend, or sit up straight for six months. I’ve told him until his fine work heals, I’ll behave myself. I’m a very complaint patient!”

Bonnie says Dr. Ghaly has called her every day to check on her progress. “He’s such a sweetheart,” she said. “He remembers everything and everyone—even me after four years!”



BS, you may live under a difficult situation that enhances the arthritis and calcium build up in the spine in the neck and lower back. BS and her husband do not know the words “Giving up”. She underwent neck spine surgery that helped her from losing the strength and sensation in all four extremities. Before the surgery, she had severe compression in the spinal cord in the neck and lost great deal of strength and sensations in her arms and legs. It took two years for her to recover and gain what she lost. BS continued to be well until years later her arthritis in her lower back got worse. Her legs and back continued to hurt and she had to “slow down”. Again she underwent low back spine surgery with fusion using instrumentation like the neck. The surgery was for hours. Amazingly, after removing and trimming all the arthritis, she did great. No more back pain or leg pain or numbness. After a few days, she weaned herself from all pain medications. She worked with therapists to get stronger. Her husband was at her bedside, helping her through her illness journey. BS was doing breathing exercises and moving her legs to prevent any clotting that may occur in the lungs or heart and can be fatal. Intravenous pain medications were used cautiously to prevent over sleepiness and to let the patient be more active and to prevent other complications. It was hard to accommodate the new restrictions of using the brace for a few months. She took the challenge well. She continued to be pain free and doing great. God bless you.

DIANNA G.

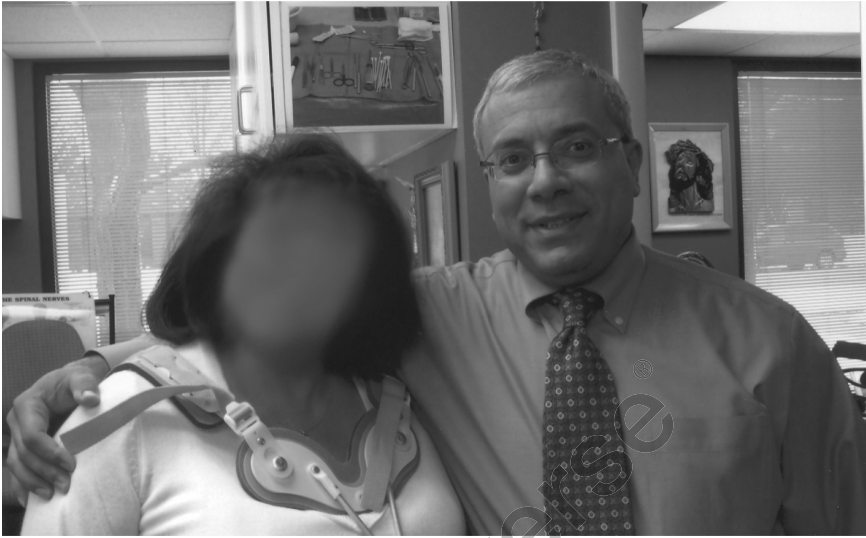
Dianna G. had lumbar fusion surgery in December 2009. She had suffered from back pain, with shooting pains down her left leg, as well as hip pain. She had seen lots of other physicians, had injections and was on pain medications, but it had become a quality of life issue.

“It’s almost like Dr. Ghaly tried to talk me out of surgery at first,” Dianna says. “I had been referred to him by a friend who had been his patient. I thought about seeing another doctor, and did not call him for a month. Then she asked me if I had called him yet. I was amazed he called me right back and set up an appointment. I also suffered from numbness in the face, and had had several strokes, so I was a mess.”

Dr. Ghaly said Dianna suffered from curvature of the spine. “After being miserable for more than a year, I can honestly tell you I see how people do themselves in from pain,” Dianna said. “It was unrelenting.”

Dianna says Dr. Ghaly insisted on meeting her family to be certain she had support to help her and take care of her post surgery. “I can’t thank Dr. Ghaly and the hospital and their staff enough,” she says. “My care was excellent. Dr. Ghaly was very open and communicative. Today I feel fantastic.

Here it is less than a month after surgery and I'm doing laundry! Dr. Ghaly uses positive words, positive actions, and positive support, and that's how you heal better. He's just amazing.”



DG, nagging leg pains (sciatica), low back pain and difficulty walking may gradually take big hurdles in the patient. The person then may turn and shy away from activities and walking, and then start to become unnoticeably chair bound. She or he may get told it is depression or “Fibromyalgia” instead of getting an MRI of the lower back spine, calcium build up, arthritis and discs pushing in the nerves in the back going to the legs. DG, a hard working independent person, caring for her daughter and her disabled parents for years was facing this condition. With faith, hope and courage, she faced the diagnosis and went for surgery where all this arthritis was removed and the spine was fused because she had a condition for years called Spondylosis, where one spine vertebra is moving in front of the other. She woke up in recovery after a lengthy surgery. With her great courage, she progressed well and ambulating the next day. She was eating, her leg pains went away and she did well with breathing exercises. The lumbar brace was hard on her but she tolerated it until it was time to remove it. Initially it was hard on her to see herself without her daily routine caring for her family including her parents and having to depend on others, but she gradually went back to her daily life activities with healthy modifications. She continued to recover with no pain and being much more active to the degree that the term “Fibromyalgia” and generalized aching pains disappeared. The medications that she used to take that made her “sleepy and tired all the time”, were all discontinued. Great story of passing through illness, thank you and god bless.

DOROTHY R.

Dorothy R. did not have surgery, though she was ready for Dr. Ghaly to recommend that treatment when she visited him.

“I had been to many, many doctors for my pain,” Dorothy remembers. “I had seen Dr. Ghaly about 10 years before and returned to him with such pain in my hip and legs that I literally could not walk. I saw one doctor for pain in my shoulder, one for pain in my legs and hip. It was just one round of doctor after another. In fact, I had complained to doctors about my pain for six months or better. No one could diagnose it, and they just kept giving me pain medication. But Dr. Ghaly took the bull by the horn and finally diagnosed what my problem was: PMR. My joints were all inflamed. That is treated by prednisone and I found relief after the first treatment.”

Dr. Ghaly sends all patients who might be considering surgery to a cardiologist to make sure that they do not have any underlying cardiac problems, and he did that for Dorothy also. “It was amazing,” she says. “They actually found some blockages, and I have a stent. He saved me from

having a heart attack, too!. Dr. Ghaly is my miracle worker. I can't praise him enough!"

VERONICA G.

Veronica G. had pain radiating down her right leg. Dr. Ghaly repaired herniated discs with surgery in July 2009. Today she is doing well, with little discomfort only if she twists or gets down on the floor.

"I was so happy with Dr. Ghaly," she says. "I really like him. He called me on New Year's Day and on my birthday. He truly cares about his patients."

MARK AND MARY N.



Both Mark and Mary N. are patients of Dr. Ghaly. Mary had had lower back pain for some time. She went to her chiropractor, who eventually referred her to Dr. Ghaly. Dr. Ghaly told her she needed surgery immediately.

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Surgery went well, and recovery was also non-eventful. She was in physical therapy a week after surgery and back to work in a few months. Today she has no pain and is back to her normal activities.

Mark also experienced back pain, but he has not required surgery. Dr. Ghaly referred him to another physician for cortisone injections.

“The first injection was like a miracle,” Mary says. “We celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary, with Mark experiencing no pain!”

Mark is in a Christian rock band called White Horse and is back to performing with the band. The band is featured on a website at www.whitehorsemusic.com.



BF celebrates his recovery after having a “pinched nerve” in the back. From working many hours and hours and fulfilling his duty at his great design work and taking care of the family, to suddenly becoming bedridden from a herniated disc. He looked at his case with faith, courage and hope and his wife and children stood by him. During surgery, the large extruded disc was removed. The sciatica nerve pressure by the disc was freed. The microscope was used and after surgery he felt a big difference and was able to go home the next day. In a few days later, he started to work in illustrations to meet the deadlines with his clients. He recovered completely and was back to his duties. He was kind enough to do this great design for the book. Thank you BF, wife and children for the cover book design.

3) SURGERY FOR SPINAL TUMOR

ROCHELLE M.

A smile you will never miss when you see Rochelle M. She is in her 60's with great faith. She had been suffering from severe pain, numbness and tingling and weakness in her arms and legs. No one can figure out that all of this was due to a benign tumor in her neck spine for years. A work up was done and the tumor was found and the tumor was removed. The surgery involved taking some of the back of the spine in the neck and reach deep in the spine and remove the tumor. The spinal cord was under pressure and the compression was removed. The tumor was benign and called meningioma. She did great and the tumor never came back. Few years later, she was found to have an aortic aneurysm, she trusted her vascular surgeon to take care of it before it ruptures. She died during the surgery. What a great lady, she always to come to the office with a daughter that she loved and grand children that she admired.

Rochelle M.'s daughter, Samantha tells her story. Rochelle had had problems for some time. "We had gone to God knows how many specialists and doctors," says Samantha. "I think I started noticing symptoms in 1999, probably some three or four years before we finally got a diagnosis of a spinal cord tumor. My mother passed out and was taken to the emergency room. She'd had all these weird symptoms and all the doctors would 'treat us and street us.' I kept asking them to find the cause of her symptoms."

Eventually Rochelle was referred to Dr. Ghaly, who ran a battery of tests. Initially he suspected hydrocephalus, a condition where the ventricles of the brain do not drain normally. "Dr. Ghaly did a lumbar puncture, and got very little fluid, so he started to focus on the spinal cord," Samantha says. "He ordered an MRI of the spinal cord and found the tumor. He asked for the previous MRI's that had been done, and said the tumor was on them as well. I learned a lot about medical tests. It's not enough to have the test. It's the quality of the person who reads them that counts as well."

Dr. Ghaly said Rochelle needed immediate surgery. "It's funny now looking back on it, but my mother and I were having this conversation about getting a second opinion, ignoring Dr. Ghaly who was in the room with us," Samantha recalls. "He said 'Ladies, the only decision is whether to do surgery tomorrow or the next day. We have a small window of time here or she will be paralyzed.' We didn't have time for a second opinion. Besides, he was the only one who found it!"

The worry before surgery was whether or not the tumor was within the spinal cord. Thankfully, it was not. It was encapsulated. "Dr. Ghaly came

into the surgical waiting room, jubilant, saying he got it all,” Samantha says. “He showed me an MRI from before the surgery, and then one after, and it was amazing how the spinal cord had just opened up after the tumor was removed.”

Rochelle had no paralysis from the tumor or surgery to remove it. “We did have some problems with physical therapy, but Dr. Ghaly took care of those,” Samantha said. “She came home, thinking all we’d need was in home therapy. But she needed more than that. Taking care of her was too much for me, as I was seven months pregnant at the time. Dr/ Ghaly got upset and had his nurse make arrangements for therapy where they would pick my mother up and take her to therapy. Then they would return her home.”

Rochelle regained her mobility, only using a cane to walk if she was going to walk long distances.

But her medical problems were not over. Though the tumor was benign, she also had an aortic aneurysm, a bulging of the aorta usually necessitating surgery. “My mother was a Jehovah’s Witness and as such could not have a blood transfusion,” Samantha said. “Typically surgery to correct this causes severe bleeding. They decided to try and fix it with less radical surgery, but it did not work. So she was taken for the more traditional surgery. She suffered major blood loss and died.”

Samantha says she has no regrets about her mother’s medical care. “I felt she had really good care, and probably would not have recovered even with a blood transfusion,” she said. “She had made her feelings very clear to me and the doctors. It was her faith, and what she wanted.”

Samantha does, however, remember one difficult moment. “I had realized Dr. Ghaly was a very religious person,” she said. “But I was not prepared when he said he wanted us to pray. That’s just not the usual medical culture these days! We tend to see prayer as a last desperate thing. But it’s just his way.”

Samantha tells patients to have an advocate. “The patient should be able to just focus on getting well,” she said. “I became a terrific note taker. I got a PDA and transferred my notes to the computer. At the very least get a calendar. It will help in tracking tests and their results. There’s just so much to keep track of!”

Be sure to visit as often as possible when the patient is in the hospital. “I was there every day,” she says. “Get to know the nurses. I wanted to know everyone involved with my mother’s care.”

Samantha says she got five more years with her mother as a result of the spinal cord surgery. “It was worth every moment,” she said. “My mother took care of me, and I was honored to return the favor. I got five more years. That’s precious time. It’s nothing you can ever get back. She lived with me for 12 years. My kids loved having her around. They had another person to

love them. Dr. Ghaly even talked with my kids. He explained the tumor to my son when he was only 3 or 4 about the tumor. I remember my son telling a fiend his grandmother had a tumor, and the way to get rid of it was to give them lots of hugs. I think Dr. Ghaly told him grandma would need lots of hugs, and he took it to heart.”

Samantha says her husband took care of his grandmother before her death. Her husband said he got to know his grandmother as an adult, and that was a different experience. “It was different to get to know my mother as an adult,” Samantha says. “I would not change a thing about having her live with me and my family.”

EDWIN G.

A 53 year old male, a dean of a school complained of severe back pain and pain and numbness to both legs having difficulty urinating.® He was bedridden because of the severity of his pain, and the weakness in his legs. He has been complaining for at least 6 weeks. The MRI of the lumbar spine showed a tumor mass that was 2.5 inches long at the level of L1L2. The heavy pain medication did not touch the pain. In 2005 he was taken to surgery and the tumor was removed completely and it turned out to be benign spinal schwanoma. In 2009 the patient retired happily and continued to do well with no recurrence of the tumor.

Edwin G. was suffering severe back and leg pain in 2005. “I saw lots of doctors, and had been diagnosed with sciatic and given muscle relaxants,” he says. “But the pain kept getting worse. Then, when in Indiana on a visit, it got so bad I went to the emergency room. Back home in Aurora, my wife finally convinced a doctor to do an MRI. That’s when they saw the tumor on my spinal cord.”

Edwin continued to be in terrible pain and was admitted to the hospital, where he was referred to Dr. Ghaly. Ghaly told him he needed immediate surgery. During the surgery, which was done the next day, Dr. Ghaly came out several times to apprise Edwin’s wife and two step sons as to his progress, and to discuss how far the doctor should go if there might be a chance of paralysis. Finally, Edwin’s wife reports, Dr. Ghaly “came dancing out into the surgical waiting room, saying I got it all, I got it all!”

Two days later Edwin was at home recuperating. “The worst part of my recovery had nothing to do with medicine,” Edwin laughs. “The day I got home, on a very cold January day, I managed to get upstairs to bed and thought it’s really cold in here. The furnace went out, and I tried to talk my wife through trouble shooting it. We finally called the emergency service

people, and they came out and fixed it. It was pretty miserable sitting there under tons of covers, shivering!”

Edwin completed physical therapy and returned to work in March, three months after surgery. He had regular MRI's to make sure the tumor does not return: first every three months, then six months, then annually. “Now Dr. Ghaly says we don't have to worry and will not have more unless I'm symptomatic,” Edwin says.

“My advice for anyone facing this diagnosis?” Edwin says. “Get to Dr. Ghaly! Without Dr. Ghaly I am certain it would not have come out as well as it did. I still have a little numbness in my big toe, but I'm up and walking four and a half miles every day!”

ROBERT F.

A great husband and father, he had loved his family to the end. He complained of severe low back pain and disabling pain and numbness and tingling. He went to several medical centers and was given different diagnoses. Until years later when MRI was ordered of the lower back and spinal tumor was diagnosed. He was taken to surgery and the tumor was removed. By that time he was on many pain medications and had other medical illness. He recovered gradually and the wound did not heal first time but later it did. He continued to improve for several years after that with good functionality. He liked golfing and being with his friends. . He expired years later from renal failure and its complications.

Robert F. spent nine years going from doctor to doctor, being misdiagnosed. His daughter, Jean, a nurse, tells his story. “My father lived with terrible, terrible nerve pain for many years,” she says. “He was misdiagnosed by many, many physicians. But my mother never gave up hope, and when she heard about Dr. Ghaly, she made an appointment for my father. Dr. Ghaly said something was not right, and he found not one but three tumors on his spinal cord, occluding it by 95 percent.”

Dr. Ghaly did an extensive work-up, with lots of testing; looking for cancer at some other site in Robert's body because he thought it might be cancer. Going into surgery, the surgeon did not know what he'd find, and not certain if the tumors would be malignant. Ghaly also found another tumor on Robert's sciatic nerve.

“In all my father spent 54 days in the hospital, and every morning Dr. Ghaly would call my mother and then call me once he had seen my father,” Jean says. “Dr. Ghaly was very much involved in my father's day to day care.”

As is his custom, Dr. Ghaly met with all members of the family before the surgery to discuss the outcome and possible complications. “My six brothers

and their families, mom, dad, and I all were in the room when dad said he didn't want to live in pain any longer and opted for the surgery," Jean says. "Being a nurse, you just don't see a doctor have that kind of meeting. My dad was a proud man, a good man, a man of few words, and you had to earn his respect. Dr. Ghaly did that."

Robert recovered well after the surgery to remove the tumors, but after spending so many years in pain and on pain medication, he had a weakened heart, which moved to heart failure and kidney failure. "My father got an infection from one of the heart treatments and that affected his kidneys," Jean said. "In the end he was on dialysis, but doing well on it. He even took a trip to Alaska. Dad died about four years after the tumor surgery."

Robert enjoyed those years to the fullest. "Dr Ghaly changed the last four years of my dad's life, his daughter tells. He gave our father back to us for the years we had, and we're grateful for that."

In fact, Dr. Ghaly ended up treating Jean as well as her father. "I remember some six months after the surgery Dr. Ghaly called just to see how dad was doing and I answered the phone," Jean says. "At the time I was laid up with back problems. I asked Dr. Ghaly if he would look at my MRI because my doctor had recommended surgery. He looked at the films and ended up doing my surgery. I was home the same day. My dad was so proud that 'his' surgeon did my surgery also. I've been a nurse for 25 plus years and I've never met a doctor like him. He's such a tender, kind person, so skilled and so brilliant. He was very involved in my family. He actually came to my father's funeral. After surgery when Dr. Ghaly told us what he'd found, I said he'd been misdiagnosed all that time. Dr. Ghaly agreed. I thought it was sad that e had lost that period of his life. But he made up for it once he was pain free."

JEFF P.

A 42 years old male presented with severe agonizing pain in the back going down to both legs with numbness and heaviness and inability to urinate. The pain was so severe that he was bedridden. The MRI showed spinal tumor in the upper part of the lower back, L1-L3. In 2002, he underwent surgical resection of the tumor and turned out to be benign and will not recur unless it was not removed completely. Extensive monitoring during surgery was done to save the nerve roots around the tumor. He recovered with no deficits and continued to be well, working and with no evidence of tumor growth. The tumor named Myxopapillary ependymoma.

Jeff P. had a spinal cord tumor removed in 2002. He had suffered from numbness in his legs. Jeff had hurt his back in a work-related accident. "I had an MRI, as required by Dr. Ghaly," Jeff remembers. "The first time Dr.

Ghaly called me, it was directly from the MRI lab. I was amazed he called me immediately after getting the results. He said I needed immediate surgery.”

The surgery went well and the tumor was not malignant. “I remember waking up in the recovery room, with Dr. Ghaly testing my reflexes,” Jeff says. “I spent a week in the hospital.”

Jeff says recovery went well. Dr. Ghaly sent him to a specialist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and he has MRI’s every six months to check up on the tumor, to be sure it does not return.

“I see Dr. Ghaly now every two years. I’d tell anyone with the same diagnosis to find Dr. Ghaly. I’ve never seen a doctor care so much about his patients. He called me all the time to check up on my progress. He made sure the home health care nurse took the right care of me. It’s all about the patient to Dr. Ghaly.”

ANN D.

A 46 years old female , a teacher and actively an opera singer, presented with long standing history of pelvic pain, numbness and tingling. The back and leg pain and numbness got worse. With her strong personality, continued to work and work and keep going with her life and never allowed this to stop. The MRI of the lumbar spine showed upper lumbar intraspinal tumor from L1- to L3. In 2008, the spinal tumor was removed under the microscope with monitoring of the surrounding nerves. All the nerves at that region were saved and she recovered well. She went back to work and back to her activities with no pain or numbness. The longstanding history of complaints in the pelvis went away. There is no evidence of tumor recurrence. The tumor called Myxopapillary tumor. No radiation or chemotherapy needed.

Ann D. saw Dr. Ghaly after two chiropractors offered no relief from pain in her back. “The chiropractors used to help,” she recalls. “But the pain got worse. On the drive home from Disney the pain was so bad I don’t think I would have made it without some pain relievers I was given by relatives when we stopped at their home on the way. I decided I had to do something else.”

Ann contacted an orthopedic physician and Dr. Ghaly, and she says it was at she ended up in Dr. Ghaly’s office. “Dr. Ghaly got me in to see him sooner,” she laughs. “He ordered an MRI and the lab sent me home with a copy of the MRI. Even I could see something. That something was a tumor in my spinal cord.”

It took a seven-hour surgery to remove the benign tumor. “Dr. Ghaly had to unwrap it from every nerve,” Ann says. “After that there was no pain. Recovery was nothing, except for the three days Dr. Ghaly made me lay flat on my back to allow things to heal better. After that all my relatives and friends

who visited me in the hospital was amazed at how well I was doing. There was virtually no pain, except for a top stitch which was only a little annoying.”

Ann is back to normal today. “I would tell anyone facing this kind of surgery to have complete confidence in his or her surgeon,” she says. “Dr Ghaly is an extremely religious person, and that was important to us. We found out my husband has leukemia one year and one day after we were married. He’s doing well now, but it was our rock solid belief in God that got us through that, as well as my surgery. You need to have that trust in your physician. Dr. Ghaly told me it helped I was so upbeat and positive, and that’s just the way I am.”

