



April 16, 2017

RE: Dmitry Epifantsev
DOB: 9/11/2016

To Whom It May Concern,

Dmitry Epifantsev was born with bilateral congenital microtia and atresia. The atresia and microtia condition consist of a missing ear canal and extremely deformed outer ear. The atresia or blockage of sound to the inner ear results in a maximum conductive hearing loss creating appreciable deficits for this child's auditory processing.

Treatment for congenital microtia and atresia is medically necessary. Congenital microtia reduces the ability to hear because the deformed ear does not capture and direct sound towards the middle ear as effectively as a normal ear. Furthermore, the deformed ear cannot be used to support glasses or BTE hearing aids. Finally, congenital microtia and atresia is a very visible facial deformity which can create significant psychological impact on the patient in terms of lower self-esteem, chronic clinical depression, and inability to socialize with other children.

There are two options for outer ear reconstruction. One is to harvest a block of the patient's own rib cartilage from their chest, then carve an ear frame work and insert it under the skin where the ear should have been. Several subsequent surgeries are required to place, life and position the ear to make it look realistic. Because this surgery required rib, the child had to be large enough to donate an ear sized piece of rib, generally between 6 and 10. A newer technique uses a manmade material called Medpor that is completely customized before surgery to be the right size and shape for the patient. The Medpor ear is inserted under a skin graft and a tissue layer brought down from the scalp. One or two surgeries have been needed for this technique to achieve best form and function. The Medpor surgery can be done as early as 3.

In 2008, a surgical breakthrough was accomplished by myself and the inventor of the Medpor technique for outer reconstruction where the atresia and microtia can be corrected in a single surgical procedure. This obviously allows the child to experience lower risk, less pain, and only one recovery period with substantially reduced facility and anesthesiology fees to the family and insurer. Dr Reinisch and I are the only surgeons in the world currently performing this combined surgery. Dr Reinisch, who is normally based in Los Angeles, travels to Palo Alto once per month with his surgery team to perform these combined surgeries with me.

For safety and risk to longstanding anesthesia, each ear is operated on separately.

The total fee for each surgery is as follows:

\$60,000	Surgeons Fees
\$20,800	Operating Room Fees
\$4,200	Anesthesiology Fees

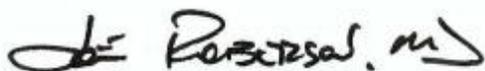
Total: \$85,000

This includes all necessary pre-operative and post-operative appointments for 90 days. The length of stay required after this surgery is a minimum of one month.

The combined atresia/microtia surgery utilizing Medpor auricular reconstruction technique is clearly in Dmitry Epifantsev's best medical interest. This approach takes what previously required five separate surgeries under general anesthesia, and combine them into a single operation. Furthermore, functional hearing improvement is generally obtained within a month of surgery, rather than the twelve months required under the previous approach. The age at which the combined atresia/microtia utilizing the Medpor auricular reconstruction technique can be performed is substantially younger (age 3) than the rib graft approach (age 6), which allows for the hearing to be restored in time to provide complete auditory input during the language explosion years from age 3 to 5, limiting the potential permanent damage to speech and language that can result from the auditory deprivation. In addition, the proposed approach is the most cost effective solution for the plan, despite the out of network status of the surgeons, as multiple separate facility fees and anesthesiology fees will be eliminated, and the increased risk of infection from multiple procedures is significantly reduced.

Please don't hesitate to contact my assistant, Marcelena Cushing if you require any additional information to decide this matter at 650-462-3109 or by email at atresiarepair@callear.com

Sincerely,



Joseph Roberson, MD
President and CEO, CEI Medical Group