



Health and Wellness

“Dr. Frantzides and the “Gentler Surgery™”

Crohn’s Disease and the “Gentler Surgery™”

Alina Gluzman’s Triumph



The diagnosis came in January 2007 after a colonoscopy procedure. After months of excruciating abdominal cramps, random episodes of upset stomach, weakness and fevers, I finally had a diagnosis: Crohn’s Disease. At the age of 17, I was unable to grasp the true meaning of a chronic disease. The disease was hard, almost impossible, for me to think of it as more than a virus to be overcome.

I sought medical help after my Crohn’s had developed to an intermediate stage. During the next couple months, I was put on many different medications—all worked for a short period and then failed. This took a physical as well as emotional toll on me. Being unable to control flare-ups, particularly in public, made me very self-conscious and withdrawn.

The medications were not working because I was diagnosed a couple of months too late—late enough to consider a more aggressive therapy. I started taking stronger medications and seemed to be improving. Yet again, this period of well-being was short-lived. I ended up in the hospital six months after my diagnosis. CT scans revealed I had an abscess. My gastroenterologist put me on antibi-

otics. After finishing my antibiotic treatment and continuing with other medications, I spent five months without any symptoms. I was sure remission had begun, until I ended up in the hospital again. The hospital surgeons were opting for an open surgery to remove the affected section of my intestine.

I was devastated about the idea of undergoing such an invasive surgery. I was also worried about the scars it would leave. My doctor referred me to Dr. Frantzides, who specializes in laparoscopic surgery. Dr. Frantzides assured me that he would be able to complete the operation using the minimally invasive technique of laparoscopy. The surgery would be done with only a camera and tiny incisions. He explained that this surgery, as opposed to open surgery, would barely leave any marks, and that I should recover from it in half the time. If it wasn’t for him, I would have never thought this alternative existed, or that it would save me a lot of physical, emotional, and mental problems.

Many surgeons are still unable to perform this kind of modern surgery and many patients remain unaware of it. Dr. Frantzides was able to complete the operation without resorting to open surgery. Where many wouldn’t have been able to continue, he did and it was a success.

I was up and walking the same day of surgery and was discharged from the hospital only two days after surgery. Now, I feel better than I have in the past year. For once, I don’t have to take any medications or worry about embarrassing flare-ups. The incisions are barely visible and are healing fast. Thanks to Dr. Frantzides’ team, no one can believe I had a full-scale operation. I can barely believe it myself.

CHICAGO INSTITUTE OF MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY



For more information
visit: www.cimis.info

To Make an Appointment Please Call:
847-676-2200

Colon Cancer and the “Gentler Surgery™”

Allen Spies’s Victory



I’m a retired commodities broker living part time in Del Ray Beach, Florida. In April of 2007, I began having terrible stomach pains and

went to the emergency room of the local hospital. I stayed four days, was released and came back to Chicago one week later.

I went to see my gastroenterologist and had another colonoscopy, follow-up to one eight months prior. He found colon cancer. He sent me to a surgeon at a local hospital and that surgeon told me how he would deal with my colon cancer by open surgery.

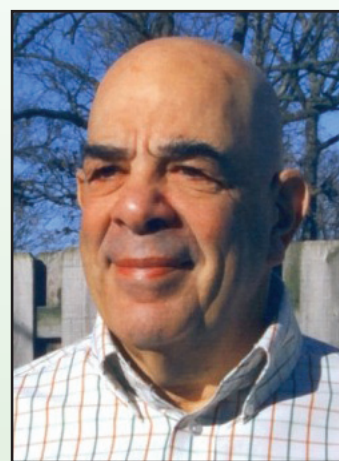
When my dearest friend heard about my problem, he told me about Dr. Frantzides, who had just operated on his wife laparoscopically and how well she was doing. I went to see Dr. Frantzides and he told me I was a good candidate for laparoscopic surgery.

I then went back to question the original surgeon and he said if he himself had colon cancer, he too would have laparoscopic surgery. He recommended Dr. Frantzides do the laparoscopic procedure. I did it Dr. Frantzides’ way (the gentler way) and I am so happy I did. The pain was minimal and I was in the hospital for two and a half days.

I cannot praise the hospital, Dr. Frantzides’ entire staff, or him enough. It has only been about six months since the surgery but I feel very positive that all is well. I feel I found a wonderful and dedicated doctor but also someone I’m so glad to call a good friend.

Heartburn and the “Gentler Sugery™”

Don Weil Defeats GERD



I started having sharp pain in my stomach area. In the past I had dull pains from time to time but did not think anything was wrong with me. I called my personal

physician for an appointment and he ordered a CT scan. After reviewing the results, he diagnosed me with several hernias. He recommended Dr. Frantzides saying, “He is a magician with the scope.”

At my appointment with Dr. Frantzides we discussed the laparoscopic surgery. During this discussion I informed him that I suffered from gastroesophageal reflux disease (heartburn, GERD). The daily medication mitigated the heartburn, but Dr. Frantzides said there was a procedure, called fundoplication, which could cure it. This procedure was also minimally invasive and could be done at the same time as my hernia repair.

I had open hernia surgery about 10 years ago which produced a long incision and a long recovery period. The decision to do the laparoscopic hernia repair was very easy.

I had decided to use medication to control the GERD as the surgical approach seemed very invasive to me. However, Dr. Frantzides’ minimally invasive approach sounded very reasonable if successful. I decided that I would try to solve my GERD problem for good and called to schedule both procedures.

I had surgery in the morning and I stayed for only one night. The only reason for the overnight stay was to make sure that my swallowing was not impaired. If I were in for the triple hernia procedure only, I would probably have gone home the same day.

Three stories; three lives changed

I left with five small punctures on my stomach, each covered by a band-aid. There was almost no pain from the incisions. The fundoplication was painless. In fact sometimes I wonder if anything was done at all...but the results are the proof.

Laparoscopic Procedures Performed by Dr. Frantzides

BARITRIC SURGERY

Laparoscopic Gastric Bypass (Weight loss surgery)

COLON/RECTUM/SMALL INTESTINE

Laparoscopic Enterectomy (Resection of small bowel)

Laparoscopic Ileocectomy

(Resection of small intestine and cecum)

Laparoscopic Colectomy

Laparoscopic Low Anterior Resection of the

rectosigmoid colon

Laparoscopic Abdominoperineal Resection

Laparoscopic Total Proctocolectomy

Laparoscopic Rectopexy

Laparoscopic Appendectomy

ESOPHAGUS

Laparoscopic Fundoplication (Gastroesophagea

Reflux Surgery)

Laparoscopic Hiatal Hernia Repair with or without

mesh

Laparoscopic Esophagomyotomy (Heller Myotomy -

For the treatment of Achalasia)

Laparoscopic Esophagectomy

Laparoscopic Transgastric Esophageal Mucosal

Resection (For the treatment of severe dysplasia)

Hernia

Laparoscopic Inguinal Hernia Repair

Laparoscopic Ventral/Incisional Hernia Repair

Laparoscopic Femoral Hernia Repair

Laparoscopic Diaphragmatic Hernia Repair

(Congenital or Traumatic)

Kidney/Adrenal

Laparoscopic Nephrectomy (Kidney removal)

Laparoscopic Donor Nephrectomy

Laparoscopic Adrenalectomy

LIVER/BILE DUCTS/GALLBLADDER

Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy (Removal of the gall

bladder)

Laparoscopic Common Bile Duct Exploration

Laparoscopic Liver Biopsy

Laparoscopic Hepatectomy (Removal of a segment of

the liver)

Laparoscopic Liver Cyst Drainage/Removal

Laparoscopic Radiofrequency Ablation of Liver Tumors

Pancreas

Laparoscopic Pancreatectomy (Resection of a

segment of pancreas for benign/malignant disease)

Laparoscopic Pseudocystojejunostomy/

Pseudocystogastrostomy (Drainage of

Pancreatic Cyst)

SPINE

Laparoscopic Anterior Spinal Fusion

SPLEEN

Laparoscopic Splenectomy

STOMACH

Laparoscopic Highly Selective Vagotomy (For treat

ment of duodenal ulcers)

Laparoscopic Truncal Vagotomy and Pyloroplasty

Laparoscopic Gastrectomy Partial/Total (Resection for

benign and malignant disease)

Laparoscopic Gastrojejunostomy

Laparoscopic Gastrostomy

OTHER

Diagnostic Laparoscopy

Laparoscopic Peritoneal Dialysis Catheter Placement

Laparoscopic Mesenteric/Retropertoneal Lymph Node

biopsy

Laparoscopic Omental Flap

The entire experience was very positive. I no longer take any medication. The “heartburn” is gone. Dr. Frantzides’ staff anticipated any potential problems and had explanations or solutions readily available. The fundoplication requires 90 days of restrictive diet after which there are no dietary restrictions.

I found Dr. Frantzides to be very personable and related well to him. He has a sharp mind even out of the medical context.



Constantine T. Frantzides

Dr. Frantzides

is the Director of the Chicago Institute of Minimally Invasive Surgery, Director of the Minimally Invasive Fellowship Program at Evanston Northwestern Healthcare, and Professor of Surgery at Northwestern University. His experience in laparoscopic gastrointestinal surgery is one of the most extensive in the U.S.

He has traveled internationally to perform and teach laparoscopic operations. During the last 16 years, he has organized 31 laparoscopic courses through which 331 surgeons were trained in laparoscopic surgery, he has made more than 200 contributions to medical literature and has published 2 books on laparoscopic surgery. Dr. Frantzides has been the recipient of several awards and honors, as well as grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and from the surgical industry. He is also credited with inventing two surgical instruments used in laparoscopic surgery. Because of his academic activities in laparoscopic surgery, as well as his surgical skills, he was given the “Achievement award for advanced laparoscopic surgery” by the American Society of General Surgery. See complete curriculum vitae for Dr. Frantzides at www.laparoscopicexperts.com.