

LAPAROSCOPIC TREATMENT OF COMPLEX COLON DISEASE

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My medical problems began several years ago because of diverticulitis which I dismissed as abdominal pain due to having wrong food.

However, during June of 2010 the pain became unbearable and it was clear to me that I had a serious medical problem. One can understand the fear that came over me as my thoughts ran across wide variety of medical issues as I am a survivor of the big 'C', Cancer.

I was admitted to our local hospital for a battery of tests all of which showed that I had serious issues in my abdomen. I was diagnosed with severe acute diverticulitis and abdominal abscess. The Medical Staff in the hospital, along with our family doctor, decided to treat me with antibiotics and drainage of the abdominal abscess in the hope of bringing my problems under control. After having been in the hospital for one week this approach proved to be fruitless. More expert help was brought in and the decision was made that I needed surgery sooner than later as I was developing high fever at different points during the day and night. Of course, during this ten day, or so period, I was getting more concerned and



fearful as to what was happening to me even though I trusted my care takers. Surgery was scheduled for Friday morning. We were to meet our family doctor on the morning of surgery and go over all the details, expectations, results, etc. During this meeting I was overwhelmed by panic and I could not agree to have the surgery that day even though I agreed that my condition more likely than not will put me back in the hospital. This surgery was to be performed in the traditional fashion

by opening my abdomen. The thought of scars all over my abdomen, bag on the side, and additional surgery few months later, brought a river of tears, fear, and panic. Thank God that I had my husband's support as I don't know how I would have handled it. We were in the car heading home when my daughter in law called and told us about Dr. Frantzides. She informed me that one of her friends had this surgery with this doctor with the minimally invasive approach. At that moment my life started over and all I could think is "How do I get this man to see

me?" As faith would have it, my daughter, who is a doctor herself, called me after she contacted Dr. Frantzides and shared my story with him who in turn advised her to bring me in to him at 2:00 PM of the same day. Mind you, present time is about twelve or so and my daughter never met this doctor before. When did any of us receive instant appointment with a doctor we know let alone one we just met? Well now you know, Dr. Frantzides is that kind of a doctor, true to his oath as doctor. We came to his office, where instantly his mannerism made me feel as if I knew that man all my life. In fact he was not just a renowned

doctor but also a special human being with a gift that would put my life back together. He examined me and he concluded that my condition was grave and I may not make it through the weekend without an operation. During the night I developed high fever and upon contacting Dr. Frantzides, I was admitted to the hospital where bowel prep was done. Throughout the time prior to the operation Dr. Frantzides build my confidence so much that I had little or no fear of my surgery. The operation was tedious as described by his assistant. The infection of my colon and the abscess resulted in a lot of scar tissue that made

the operation very difficult. In addition Dr. Frantzides discovered that there was an opening between the colon and urinary bladder (fistula). Despite of all this difficulties Dr. Frantzides managed to complete the operation laparoscopically. God, as I am writing, it's difficult to put in words as to what a gift this man is to his profession, his patients, and his students.

I am happy to state that my abdomen has four small ($\frac{1}{8}$ ") incisions and I am back to normal life. Thank you Dr. Frantzides, and I can only hope that the gift that the creator has given you, you will pass on to those that you are training.