



Dr. Frantzides and Mrs. Size three months after surgery

Mrs. Roberta Sizes' Story

STRANGULATED COLON (VOLVULUS) TREATED WITH LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY

My first awareness that I had developed a problem that would become a virtual nightmare and leave me in some kind of medical limbo happened to me while vacationing in California in May 2002. In an emergency room I was diagnosed with a partial bowel obstruction. I have some very prominent scars on my entire abdomen from some 30-year old surgeries, and I was told that I probably have internal adhesions as well. This is not a good thing to have if you really ever need a surgeon's attention, which I did.

I went home, and within a week I was back in an emergency room with a severe abdominal pain and the inability to walk or stand without abdominal pain. Over the next six months I had many trips to the ER. Fortunately for me, my gastroenterologist knew Dr. Frantzides and asked him to see me. At the time Dr. Frantzides was scheduled for months in advance for laparoscopic surgeries into 2003, but he felt that I needed more immediate attention and he operated on me the day before Thanksgiving in November, 2002. The report would show that I had multiple adhesions, not the least being a tight band wrapped around loops of small bowel and entrapping them. End of symptoms.....Dr. Frantzides also took care of a large hiatal hernia with a laparoscopic

fundoplication procedure to correct the reflux symptoms I had from this hernia.

It would be six years later that I would again desperately need Dr. Frantzides. Unfortunately, I had moved out of the area, and with my bad reputation of having adhesions, I was going to encounter a 14-month period of what I call "benign neglect" from the Medical Profession in general and surgeons in particular. In June, 2007, symptoms recurred that could last for weeks. I assumed, erroneously, that since it was now officially documented that I have serious abdominal adhesions, everyone would take care of me. I was wrong.....if anything, I was treated with disdain from the surgeons I met along the way, because of having adhesions.

So, my options had run out, all but one. I went back to Dr. Frantzides with my tale of woe and he immediately sensed that I really needed help. I was operated on in September, 2008, and to their amazement, it was discovered that part of my colon (cecum) had folded over on itself. I had a rare condition called "volvulus" which could cause major risks to my life if left untreated. Dr. Frantzides performed a laparoscopic right colectomy and I was discharged from the hospital the next day.

One of the most impressive aspects of my experience are the advantages of laparoscopic surgery over open surgery. I can definitely be a testament to these advantages since I had open surgeries before. After laparoscopic surgery you are on your feet as soon as the anesthesia has completely worn off, and the next day you go home with the only evidence that you even had surgery being the two or three band aids on your belly. I realize that I had the good fortune to have been introduced to a Surgeon who's reputation in the field of surgical accomplishments in Minimally Invasive Surgery are of world renown.

The most important aspect in this journey is the fact that Dr. Frantzides was willing to listen to my complaints and symptoms, whereas others did not, and was able to reach a diagnosis and act upon it.