



## THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ABDOMINAL WALL OF ANTHONY A. DINA JR.

My story starts September 19, 2009. I developed severe abdominal cramps, which continued up through September 21, 2009 at which time I presented myself to the Advocate Immediate Care Facility in my local area. The attending physician took x-rays of my abdomen and informed me that I needed to immediately go to a local emergency room due to the fact that the x-rays showed I had a bowel obstruction. At this time the physician

handed me a disk with copies of the x-rays. I was taken to a local hospital that my immediate care physician is affiliated with. I was seen by a group of emergency physicians. These physicians confirmed my diagnosis of strangulated hernia and bowel obstruction through various tests and I was immediately seen by a surgical team. For the next day and a half, I was given various tests, and a tube was placed through my nose down into my stomach to decompress it. On September 24, 2009 I was taken to surgery and the surgeons attempted a laparoscopic procedure. During the ensuing procedure my intestine was nicked and they had to open me up. Because of the perforation of my intestine my incision in the skin had to be left open. In addition I was placed on a feeding tube for the next four and a half weeks. I was then transferred to an open wound care facility where I remained for an additional four weeks.

On January 12, 2010 I was admitted to the same hospital where I underwent repair of the incisional hernia. The incisional hernia repair seemed to have gone afoul, and I knew that I needed further medical treatment because something appeared to be incorrect. From my observations I knew that the procedure had not been properly done because I still had a large protrusion on my abdomen that should have been corrected by the hernia repair. At the same time, stitches were rising to the surface and had to be removed. I was not healing in the belly button area, so the surgeons decided to cut out and sew this area. In actuality, my abdomen reminded me of a pregnant woman, so I decided to get a second opinion from a surgical group outside of the Advocate group that I had been dealing with.

Through my search I found Dr. Frantzides and I made an appointment to see him. Dr. Frantzides and his fellow, Dr. Welle, spent a lot of time not only examining me but explaining to me in details their proposed course of action. They ordered a CT scan of my abdomen and then called me back for a visit at which time they showed me through diagrams what was wrong and the corrections that needed to be done. They also had copies of the original surgical procedures that had been performed. I then made the decision that due to the condition I was in, I had no alternative except to proceed with the recommendation of Dr. Frantzides.

On February 12, 2011, I was admitted to St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, IL. The procedure was expected to take approximately two to two and a half hours. Due to the complexity of the surgery however it actually lasted for four and a half hours.



We can now fast forward to June of 2011. It is four months post operative and I am now back to my normal self, both physically and mentally after approximately eighteen months of pure hell. I am submitting photographs of my abdomen from before and after. Dr. Frantzides and his team repaired my hernia. I need to further explain that when I went into the original surgery in September of 2009 I was in superb physical condition. I am an amateur all natural competitive body builder who competes in Grand Master's Competitions (sixty + years category). For me to have emerged from the original surgery in the physical condition they had left me was unacceptable. Therefore, I proceeded to find out what was wrong and tried to find corrective measures that should be taken. Had it not been for Dr. Frantzides and his surgical team, my abdominal section would have ended up looking the way the photographs from between surgeries illustrates, thus eliminating my chances of ever competing again. As I write this I cannot speak highly enough for the expertise and professionalism of Dr. Frantzides, his surgical team, and his office staff Teresa and Jerri. They have all been with me from the start through the end of this journey. I would highly recommend Dr. Frantzides' services to anyone in need of surgery.