

HERVEY BAY HOSPITAL

SPECIALIST CLINICS - ORTHOPAEDICS

Dictated: 02.06.05

Typed: 09.06.05

SC/pb

Dr K Goldston
Torquay Family Practice
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Dear Dr Goldston

RE: P444 - HBH UF

I reviewed P444 in the Outpatient Department at Hervey Bay Hospital on 2 June 2005 regarding her left foot. She had a 1st MTP fusion performed on 3 September 2003. Prior to this she had a significant bunion and says that she had quite a lot of pain in the joint. Her Outpatient notes prior to this, show that she was first seen on 6 June 2003 where the bunion was noted but the notes record that the MTP joint was ok. She was arranged for surgery and consented on 19 June 2003. The Outpatient notes on 13 August 2003, suggest that the patient was reviewed, they say that "she has not fully understood the procedure and is not happy with the idea of fixing osteotomy with screws", and she was postponed to be reviewed again the next week. On questioning her about this, she says that she came in prepared for the surgery, she didn't understand the reason for the cancellation, but she felt that Dr Krishna was not prepared for the operation at the time and this was why it was cancelled. She was seen on 21 August, and at that stage was consented for bunionectionomy and MTP fusion. She had originally been consented for bunionectionomy.

Reviewing this in retrospect, there is some degenerative changes on the original x-rays, and whilst it is difficult to be sure, she probably did have some degenerative changes and a fusion may well have been a reasonable option.

Since then, she has been having ongoing problems; she was a keen dancer and has been unable to get back to dancing regularly because of pain in the toe distally. She gets pain over the distal aspect of the toe medially beside the nail when she walks, and she is concerned that the toe continually sticks downwards. She has seen a couple of other people. Apparently she was somebody in Brisbane who was not sure that further surgery would help her. She has also seen Dr Khorsandi in Maryborough, and from the description of their discussion it sounds like he had suggested a Keller's procedure.

To examine, she has a solidly fused MTP joint, there is normal alignment in the AP plane, but clearly laterally the toe is in a flexed position. She has a range of movement in her IP joint from 0-20°, and some apparent tenodesis with the extensor tendon.

Measuring the angle of the fusion on the lateral x-ray, suggests that there is probably 15° extension in relationship to the 1st metatarsal, however clinically it appears significantly less than this.

I have discussed the options with her which include leaving things alone, doing a repeat fusion in a more extended position, or a Keller's procedure. In the balance, she is keen to have something done and feels that the Keller's procedure would be the better option. I think in her situation, either would have a reasonably good chance of making her significantly better than she is now.

Yours sincerely

(Dictated/Checked/Not signed)

Dr Scott Crawford
Director of Orthopaedics
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Date Checked: 10.06.05

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