



Children's Hospital Boston

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Dear Dr. Benishev,

Thank you for your letter regarding Elena Dimitrova, who is a patient seeking to come to Children's Hospital Boston for treatment of her short bowel syndrome. I have reviewed the available medical records supplied by Ms. Dimitrova and would like to respond specifically to the questions outlined in your recent letter as below.

The Commission would like to receive an answer to the following questions regarding:

1. Generally: the possibility of performing Serial Transverse Enteroplasty procedure in this case;

Answer: After review of her case and radiographic studies, she seems to have developed massively distended small intestine, which makes her an excellent candidate for the STEP procedure.

2. The possibilities of successful operation procedure (STEP operation) at the age of Elena (27 years) and the experience of your specialists on these procedures at this age are they sure that Elena will need serial transverse enteroplasty;

Answer: If Elena is not tolerating feedings due to dysfunction of the dilated intestine, the STEP procedure should be of benefit to her. The STEP procedure has been done successfully in adult patients. If successful, the STEP procedure will help Elena wean from TPN, although we cannot predict if this will allow her to be completely removed from TPN permanently.


3. The possibilities of successful operation procedure (STEP operation) considering the present:

- Desmoid tumors
- Persistent multiple intestinal polyposis (Gardner's syndrome)
- Ultra short bowel syndrome (about 30-40 cm small bowel) and TPN.

Answer: It is difficult to predict the outcome for each individual patient. Overall, approximately 50% of patients are able to wean completely off TPN after the STEP procedure. The presence of the desmoid tumors and polyps may make the operation more difficult or impossible to safely perform, but I cannot determine how difficult it will be prior to the actual operation. The length of the remaining intestine, although short, does not preclude a successful STEP operation.

Please let me know if I can answer any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. Kim', written over a white background.

Heung Bae Kim, M.D.
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