



DUKE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Robert E. Isaacs, M.D.  
Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery

April 4, 2007

Re: FOSTER, SUZETTE FAITH ET561

Dr. Braden,

I am seeing Ms. Foster back today. She is now about a year and a third status post a mountain biking accident. She was doing a jump, landed wrong on her neck, and became quadriplegic, including loosing her ability to breath. As you are aware, many patients in this condition will expire at the scene, never surviving to become hospitalized for treatment. Those that do, as in her case, are often found to have profound neurologic findings on physical exam. Given her combined fractures of C1 and C2 vertebra and 50% translation at the C1-2 level not surprisingly the patient was found to have profound spinal cord injury at the time of presentation. Remarkably the patient has recovered dramatically.

Her recovery was truly dramatic, even early on, essentially gaining near normal neurologic function within a relatively short period of time. This has only continued over the recent past. She actually presents to discuss today, after a severe fall while in-line skating.

The patient feels strongly that her improvement has been a direct result of her combining eastern medical philosophy and treatment to our western approach to her neck fractures. Regardless of the reason, we are quite thrilled and profoundly impressed with her recovery.

Even after her last spill, she looks great. Maybe one of these days we can get her to slow down before she "hurts herself" – I've tried!

Please feel free to contact me to discuss further with any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Isaacs, M.D.

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