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TESTAMONIAL AS TO EFICACY OF STEM CELL TREATMENT FOR PAIN

By Robert G. Knollenberg

I developed a painful gnarly urogenital pain syndrome in early 1996 that required hydrocodone or oxycodone to provide relief. After visits to several local urologists in Boulder and a visit to the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, AZ without any adequate treatment suggestions I connected with my Boulder medical team and asked that they send me to the best urology teaching hospital in the country. They recommended the Brady Urological Institute at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. After visiting there and finding a suspicious deformed bladder neck, a TURP procedure was recommended that was performed at the Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore in early 1997. This TURP was performed in the summer of 1997 and measureable relief was obtained by straightening my bladder neck. But I still required opioids for sufficient pain relief. At this point in time the pain had morphed from penile pain to paraneal pain.

I first met Dr. Daniel Drennan on October 4th, 2018 at his Golden Office. I had been referred to him by the Pain Management Center in Salt Lake City by Sue Basta, who I had been seeing twice a year since 1998 for methadone. [In 1998 it was the only accredited pain management center in the Rocky Mountain Region.] I had the prior summer met the Director of that Salt Lake City Pain Management Center.....a Dr. Michael Ashburn at a Venture Capital Conference in Salt Lake City. I talked to him at the conference and visited his office that next morning. We discussed my painful urogenital pain syndrome that had developed first in 1996 and a 1997 TURP surgical procedure had not provided complete relief. He recommended a number of possible pain regimens but emphasized I likely had neuropathic pain and that I try methadone of low dose. That seemed to work quiet well but it still was an opioid.

So my first visits with Dr. Drennan were to obtain the methadone that provided pain relief from my urogenital pain syndrome. On my first visit I was caught by posters indicating the use of stem cell treatment to provide a possible alternative to methadone. We scheduled an appointment in January of 2019 to possibly perform the treatment. Dr. Drennan had me provide an MRI of my lower spine a week prior. Using the the information from the MRI superimposed on my lower lumbosacral spine, Dr. Drennan performed bilateral L3/4 L4/L5 L5/S1 stem cell injections. I then titrated myself off the methadone over a 6 week period. I have been pain free now for about a year and consider the ordeal over. I have had no reoccurrence of the pain at all. I am able to recommend stem cell treatment to anyone that has pain requiring opioids to mitigate and find Dr. Drennan the medical professional of choice.

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