

June 15, 2006

Dear Dr. Cicilioni,

It has been two weeks since my surgery, and I wanted to thank you for everything that you have done for me during this process.

Although, I was not happy with my abdominal area after my surgery for colon cancer five years ago, I don't believe that I would have made the decision to have elective surgery to correct the problems if it had not been for you. It took several months for me to make the decision after I initially discussed the procedure with you.

The amount of time you took to explain the procedure, including the risks was unexpected as most doctors seem to want to move quickly to the next patient. You listened patiently to my questions and answered each one in a manner that was not only informative but understandable to a non medical person. Sometimes, I asked some questions more than once. You never made me feel rushed when we were talking about the procedure and you never made me feel stupid for asking some the questions, which I suspect some of them were.

I remember when you explained the risks. I asked you what you were prepared to do for me in the event that one of the risks occurred. You did not hesitate to describe what you would do. I felt confident that you would be able to handle any problem that might arise.

On the morning of my surgery, you spoke to me in a calm manner that took away any last minute anxiety that I had. I noticed many of the nurses who took care of me in the hospital commented on how much they enjoyed working with you and how well your patients seemed to recover after the surgery. I can tell you those comments made me feel that I had made the right decision in selecting you as my surgeon.

Since my surgery, you and your staff have been very accessible to respond to any of my concerns, including meeting me at your office on a Saturday to examine my surgical site and to reassure me that my recovery was progressing normally. In view of the really complex surgeries you are called upon to perform, my surgery would be considered basic, yet to me it was serious and your skill in performing it is evident in the result.

I really feel blessed that you were involved in my decision to have surgery to correct the problems in my abdominal area. You are one of the very special doctors who practice a very high level of medicine and I feel fortunate that I have you as my doctor.

Thank you so very much.

Sincerely,

The signature is handwritten in black ink. The name is redacted with a thick black marker.