



Bill C.
Murfreesboro, TN

PROBLEM

“I had had my shoulder replaced by another surgeon in town 2 years before, but the pain was still bad. I couldn’t get my arm away from my side high enough to put mail in a mailbox or to use a bank machine. I hurt all the time. I couldn’t lie on that shoulder in bed and I couldn’t sleep on the other shoulder because of arthritis there. “

SEEKING HELP

“I had been going to therapy and I felt they knew something wasn’t right. The first doctor, the orthopaedic surgeon, told me that that was all he could do; he had done everything he felt he could do. He said, ‘I’ll see you in a year,’ then never did call back. In my mind, it was like he didn’t give a hoot any more. Something wasn’t right. It had to have been bad, but he wouldn’t admit it. So I got all my X-rays and went to see Dr. Petty.”

DIAGNOSIS

“They took another X-ray and Dr. Petty said, ‘Here’s your problem, right here: where they put this pin [the shoulder implant] in, they put it in wrong because it’s crooked. For this thing to work right in your shoulder it’s like the alignment on a car. If things aren’t lined up right, it’s not going to work.”

OPTIONS

Live with it the way it was or do surgery to correct the alignment of the [implant].

OPERATION

“There was also a nerve that was wrapped around the ball that goes into the shoulder. In time I could have lost more of the use of my arm. They gave me one unit of blood because it took longer than Dr. Petty anticipated. There was one ligament that he had to make longer, splice out.”

RESULTS

“The pain is gone. Now I can put my arm over my head and even put my hand behind my back. It used to be a struggle to get my billfold out. Now I can do it. I feel great now that I’ve hooked up with Dr. Petty; he’s a great guy. If anybody I know has a shoulder problem, I would lead them down to his place of business. If they want to get themselves fixed up, they better go to him. If they want to take a chance they can go to somebody else. It’s a good feeling to know that there are some people who can do what they should do.”

***Dr. Petty’s Comments:** Bill came to me for arthritis in his right shoulder, but the function of his left was so poor that I felt I could make a greater impact on his life and happiness by fixing that one. The implant was put in too high and in varus mal-alignment causing impingement in the socket, motion loss and pain. The impingement had also caused the socket to fracture, increasing his pain. It was a complex surgery and great care had to be taken not to injure the axillary nerve during the approach. We removed the old implant and installed a new one as well as a new socket. Bill was an ideal patient and helping him was one of my most rewarding experiences as a physician.*