

Dear Potential Patient:

Thank you for your interest in nerve transfers for patients with spinal cord injury. Enclosed is information about the procedure, a copy of the press release about the procedure, a question-and-answer sheet, and a screening form for potential patients. The article titled "Nerve transfers for the restoration of hand function after spinal cord injury- Case report" can be found in the *Journal of Neurosurgery* on [www.Pubmed.gov](http://www.Pubmed.gov).

If you think you are a candidate for nerve transfer for a motor level C6 or C7 spinal cord injury, you should share the enclosed information with your personal physician. Your doctor should review the information to see if he or she thinks you may be a candidate.

If your primary care or rehabilitation physician thinks a referral is appropriate, he or she should send the following to the address above or fax to (314) 367-0225:

- A comprehensive letter of introduction detailing the ASIA/ICSHT classification of your spinal cord injury and description of the functional use of both hands. We must know if elbow flexion and wrist extension are intact. The letter will also need to describe the condition of your upper extremities with joint stability, range of motion, spasticity, and contracture.
- Progress notes of physical therapy/rehabilitation program.
- Operative notes from previous spinal surgeries and surgeries to the shoulders, arms, and hands.
- Demographics (address, phone number, date of birth, etc.) and health insurance information
- Complete the General Health Questionnaire for Patients with Quadriplegia form.

Once all of the required records are received, they will be reviewed within 30 days of receipt. Our clinical nurse coordinator will contact you.

Our office has received thousands of phone calls from patients requesting over-the-phone consultations; unfortunately, phone consultations are not possible. However, if you are interested in travelling to St. Louis for a clinical evaluation and testing, that can be arranged provided you meet the requirements.

Please note that that we cannot treat spinal cord injuries other than C6 or C7 quadriplegia; we cannot treat nerve damage to eyes or ears. We also cannot help patients with cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, and stroke.

Again, due to the tremendous response we have received, we request that you not contact our office without first discussing with your personal physician and arranging for the letter and records to be sent. We feel this is the best mechanism to help everyone so that they will receive correct and appropriate attention.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Sincerely,



Ida K. Fox, MD



Susan E. Mackinnon, MD