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A CHILD WITH LEBER'S CONGENITAL AMAUROSIS (LCA) SHOWS, AFTER STEM CELL THERAPY, CHANGES NEVER REPORTED IN THE MEDICAL PRESS.



Figure 1



Figure 2

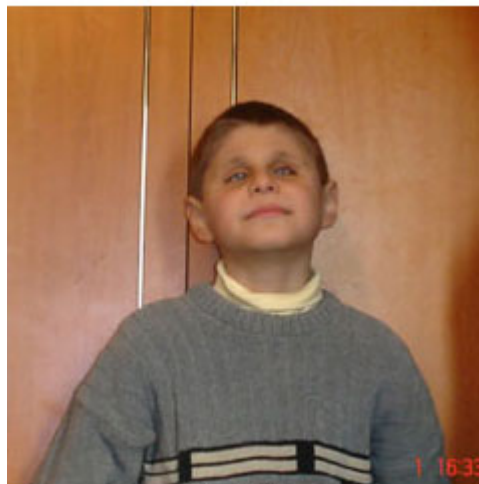


Figure 3

Figure 1: Immediately after surgery (photo showing Dr. Sapse, Edi and his mother, Dr. Gonzales)

Figure 2: Detail on Figure 1 showing the right eye with lid closed while in the left eye the upper lid was manually opened.

Figure 3: Subject on January 26th, 2007 eyes/lids wide open.

Leber's Congenital Amaurosis (LCA) is the most severe form of Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) which includes Usher's Syndrome and Stargardt's diseases/ fundus flavimaculatus.

We are presenting here a case of a ten year old child diagnosed with LCA. Medical and ERG examinations show him as have being born blind, lids closed since birth, enophthalmos, congenital cataract both eyes showing as white spots on the pupil and after manual opening of the lids showing horizontal nistagmus. Upon questioning he stated that he "sees" a black wall all the time. The ERG is showing no electrical activity. No attempt was made to identify his phenotype.

His name is Eduard (Edi) Leanca "the child with the golden voice", star of Antena 1, television station, Bucharest, Romania.

On December 10th, 2007 Edi had received four implants with amniotic membrane epithelial cells (see Figure 4:surgical drawing attached), where placenta growth factors including IL-6, IL-10, human growth hormone (HGH) were added.

His post-op period was uneventful, and ten days later, the stitches were removed. On or around January 15th, 2008, Edi's father Ilie noticed that Edi was trying to open his eyes and around January 25th, 2008, his eyes/lids became wide open. After a few hours of excitement, Edi wanted to "see" television. He then told his parents, the he was "seeing" shadows on the T.V. set and when his father played a trick by moving in front of the television set, Edi promptly told him to move away. Upon physical examination of his eyes, his father (confirmed by others) stated that his horizontal nistagmus had disappeared, the eyes were moving normally, and able to follow the finger of his father who moved it in all directions.

The sun light that was not bothering Edi before surgery now became an irritant, and Edi parents were told to provide him with sunglasses when outside the house. Taking into consideration that Edi "saw" shadows, in spite of the thick congenital cataract barrier, is giving us hopes that after cataract surgery, to occur in the next two months that Edi's eye sight might be much improved.

In the meantime the SCPI staff is designing in collaboration with a child psychologist a program that would gradually bring Edi, from a world of sound but no sight, to a world that he would hopefully be able to hear and see.

Other SCPI activities dealing with RP:

SCPI initial cell implant technique had been used successfully albeit temporarily (3-4 months) in restoring partial eye sight in Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) and durable results in Usher's Syndrome patients. Now with the new techniques, we are using at the present time we are foreseeing results that would be better, sooner and longer lasting.