

NEUROLOGIST  
FORSYTH COUNTY  
TELEPHONE

March 12, 2007

Mr. Ian D. Leibowitz

New York, New York 10002

Dear Mr. Leibowitz:

This note sums my office evaluation of March 12. On that day you indicated that you are a 38-year old man with chronic right sciatica. For many years you complained of mild right sciatica that increased in intensity in October of 2005 after "lifting boxes". The pain was in the buttocks, thigh, calf, under the right foot, and towards the right great toe. When physical therapy and steroid injections did not afford you complete relief you underwent surgery on the right at L5-S1 for disc degeneration and prolapse. There was no improvement in your pain after the operation. Post-surgically, you experienced diffuse neuropathy involving your hands and feet, requiring Neurontin and Lyrica for pain control. These symptoms took more than a year to recover. Past medical history includes allergies to penicillin and sulfa medications. Current medications include Protonix, tramadol, multiple vitamins, and Aleve or Advil around the clock or as needed.

On examination today you looked well. There was no abnormalities of station or gait. You could easily stand on your tiptoes or walk on your heels without any difficulty. When examined supine, there was no weakness in either lower extremity and the mechanical signs of nerve root irritation were absent bilaterally. The only abnormality was depression of the right ankle reflex.

The pre- and post-operative films show advanced L5 disc degeneration with central prolapse of the annulus into the posterior and longitudinal ligament. The postoperative study essentially shows the same thing with normal postoperative scar at the L5-S1 space.

**Impression:** You have the chronic right S1 pain syndrome, unresponsive to surgery. I would advise other conservative management including vigorous exercise, anti-inflammatory medications for pain control, anti-depressants for pain control, and further time for the nerve to heal. There is no indication that a second surgery at L5-S1 or L4-5 will help your condition. I hope that you find this useful for the management of the chronic nerve injuries.

Sincerely,