

October 19, 2000

Dear Mr. Fishman:

I read your article in the June issue of New York Magazine where you listed the best Doctors in New York. I wanted to recommend a Doctor to you who is in my opinion deserving of special recognition in the event you write another article on New York Doctors. His name is Dr. Daniel S. Choy and I will explain as briefly as possible why I have such high regard for him.

I am a 58 year old retired New York City Detective Sergeant who has had lower back pain for many years. Recently, however, I discovered I had two herniated discs in my neck. I realize that hearing or reading about peoples medical histories can be quite taxing, therefore I will condense my experience and explain any detail at a later date if you wish.

I had excruciating pain with very little mobility in my neck and right arm for about 7 months. I had seen many different Doctors and surgeons (two are on your list). I took an assortment of drugs for pain and inflammation, including two epidural injections. There were other treatments, but I am sure you get the picture. Eventually the diagnosis and treatment recommendations of 5 Doctors associated with various hospitals, including Pascack Valley Hospital, Hospital for Special Surgery, and NYU began to sink in, no matter how much I resisted. I needed cervical spine surgery to remove two herniated discs, fuse the vertebrae together and install a titanium "cage" with stainless steel screws. A neurosurgeon recommended a less invasive procedure, but serious spinal surgery never the less.

I read about Dr. Choy who performs a laser procedure on herniated discs. After reading my reports and examining me he said he could help me, but indicated how difficult it was to work in the cervical area as opposed to the lumbar area. In the cervical area he had to contend with the carotid artery, the trachea esophagus and the jugular vein.

On December 21, 1999 Dr. Choy did his laser procedure on my two discs in his office, as an out patient. Initially I had mixed results, the pain was gone in some areas but new pain had developed. Today, more than nine months later I am much improved. I have full range of motion in my neck, much of the muscle atrophy has been reversed and I am practically free of pain. I say practically because there are days when I have pain or discomfort that is manageable. I feel confident that this too will improve.

Considering the risks involved with spinal surgery compounded by having metal devises replacing bone and tissues in your body and the questionable success rate of these procedures, I think that what Dr. Choy does or at least did in my case is profound and deserving of considerable recognition. I look forward to your opinion on this. I have all my reports, etc. to substantiate my condition.

Dr. Choy can be reached at 170 East 77<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10021, 212-535-6040. I have not discussed writing this letter with him.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Naughton