

## ડૉ. ફિરોઝ મિયાંજી



કેનેડાના ટોરોન્ટો શહેરમાં રહેતા મરહૂમ ઈબ્રાહીમ નાથલિયાના બનેલી ઐયુબભાઈ મિયાંજી અને તેમનાં ધર્મપત્ની રાબીયાબેનના સુપુત્ર ડૉ. ફિરોઝ મિયાંજી MD FRCSC બ્રિટીશ કોલમ્બિયા ચિલ્ડ્રન્સ હોસ્પિટલના Department of Paediatric Orthopedicsમાં Paediatric Spine Surgeon છે. તેમણે એક અદ્ભૂત ઓપરેશન કરી ટંકારીઆ ગામનું નામ ખરેખર રોશન કર્યું છે. આ એક એવું અજોડ ઓપરેશન હતું જેની નોંધ ત્યાંના મુખ્ય અખબારો અને સામયિકોએ પણ લીધી હતી.

૧૮ વર્ષની કાર્મેન સ્ટોક નામની એક મહિલાને વારસાગત જેને અંગ્રેજીમાં scoliosis કહે છે તેની તકલીફ હતી. આ વિકૃતિમાં વ્યક્તિની કરોડરજ્જુ વાંકી વળી ગયેલી હોય છે. તેણીની વળાંકવાળી કરોડરજ્જુને સીધી કરવા જે સફળ ઓપરેશન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું તેમાં સર્જનોની ટીમમાં ડૉ. ફિરોઝે મુખ્ય ભાગ ભજવ્યો હતો.

સામાન્ય રીતે આના માટે જૂની પદ્ધતિથી કરવામાં આવતી સર્જરી (શસ્ત્રક્રિયા) બાદ દર્દીને ઘણાં લાંબા સમય સુધી પથારીવશ રહેવું પડતું હતું. પણ નવી ટેકનિકથી કરવામાં આવેલી આ શસ્ત્રક્રિયાને પરિણામે દર્દી માત્ર એક જ દિવસમાં ચાલતી થઈ ગઈ હતી અને છ અઠવાડિયાંમાં જ આત્મવિશ્વાસપૂર્વક ટટાર ઊભી રહી શકી હતી.

આ કંઈ જેવી તેવી સિદ્ધિ નથી. ડૉ. ફિરોઝે ટંકારીઆનું ગૌરવ વધાર્યું છે. ધન્યવાદ!

ફોટા સાથે ઓપરેશનની વધુ વિગતો માટે નીચેનાં અંગ્રેજી પાનાં જુઓ.



## New spinal surgery has patients walking within a day

BY AMY O'BRIAN, FOR CANWEST NEWS SERVICE



18-year-old Carmen Stolk was the first person in Canada to receive a new surgery for scoliosis. Her mom Donna had surgery for the same scoliosis 33 years ago. Dr. Firoz Miyanji is also pictured.

**Photograph by:** Bill Keay, For Canwest News Service

VANCOUVER — To watch her walk into a room, you would never guess that Carmen Stolk had major surgery six weeks ago to correct a curve in her spine.

The 18-year-old stood straight and confident Thursday morning at BC Children's Hospital, looking happy to be back in the building where history was made in August when surgeons performed a new, less invasive type of surgery to correct her scoliosis.

Stolk was the first person in Canada to receive the surgery, which reduces the amount of trauma done to patients' backs, allowing them to get up and walk the next day.

Stolk spent four days in hospital before she was sent home to Prince George, B.C. Since then, she's been going for long walks and is eagerly awaiting her doctor's go-ahead to get back to swimming and running.

In contrast, her mother, who had surgery 30 years ago to correct her scoliosis, spent three days in the intensive care unit, had several blood transfusions and had to wear a body cast for six months.

"I am just very grateful," Stolk said while sitting next to her mother at BC Children's Hospital.

Rather than making one long, deep incision along Carmen's spine — and having to strip muscle away

from bone to insert a corrective rod — her surgeons made three smaller incisions through which they fed the rod. They then used screws to align and tighten the rod, immediately correcting the curve in Carmen's spine.

Dr. Firoz Miyajji is the pediatric surgeon who performed the procedure. Since fixing Carmen's back, he has performed the surgery three more times and said the improvements in blood loss and recovery time are remarkable.

"The reason this is a breakthrough . . . is the blood loss is a lot less, the pain the patient feels after the procedure is a lot less, the requirement for pain medication is a lot less and what we're trying to do is get them immediately mobilized, so they stand and walk the next day," Miyajji said Thursday.

Patients undergoing other types of scoliosis-correcting surgeries normally require at least one night in the intensive care unit and can only sit up in the days following with the help of a physiotherapist, Miyajji said.

When Stolk's mother, Donna Stolk, underwent surgery at BC Children's Hospital in 1978 to correct her scoliosis, her experience was drastically different. She doesn't remember anything from her three days in the ICU, but recalls the three weeks she spent strapped to a Stryker frame, being turned every four hours to alternately face the floor, and then the ceiling.

Her trip home to the B.C. Interior community of Bridge Lake involved lying on the floor of a float plane for two hours, and then lying in the box of a pickup truck to be driven to her home. She was in a full plaster body cast, on her back, for two months, and a walking body cast for four months.

On Thursday, the mother and daughter lifted the backs of their shirts to illustrate the drastic difference in their scars. Donna's scar reaches from the base of her neck all the way down her spine. Her daughter has three two-inch scars.

Scoliosis, which is a curvature of the spine, occurs in up to three per cent of the population.

Many people live with a slight curve in their spine for their entire lives without any significant problems. But when the curve is greater than 50 degrees, doctors often recommend surgery.

In Stolk's case, her curve was between 40 and 50 degrees when it started to cause her pain and discomfort. She had pinched nerves, cramping, her right shoulder was significantly higher than her left, she had a bump in her back, and her ribs jutted out to one side.

"Cosmetically, I really didn't like it," she said.

But within hours after surgery, she looked in the mirror and was delighted to see that her ribs were back in place and her shoulders were level with one another.

"It's amazing," she said.



Before and after X-rays of 18-year-old Carmen Stolk's back.

**Photograph by:** Bill Keay, For Canwest News Service

