For High School Pitcher, Brain Surgery A Home Run

Craig Mitchell was a 17 year-old high school senior from Fuquay Varina, North Carolina when he noticed increasing difficulty on the baseball field with fielding fly balls, grounders and striking out 16 of 20 at bats in summer league. Ultimately, it became clear he was suffering from a lack of coordination, dizziness, and motion intolerance. He also noticed some loss of hearing in his left ear. He and his parents sought evaluation for his symptoms prompting an MRI that revealed a large tumor compressing his cerebellum and brainstem, consistent with an acoustic neuroma (see Pre-op on page 3). He was referred to the Multidisciplinary Skull Base Team at UNC for further evaluation and management. Given the size of his tumor, his young age, and the degree of brain compression, it was clear that surgery would be needed. One of Craig’s major concerns was the possibility of returning to the varsity baseball team for his senior high school season as the closing pitcher, a prospect that was unclear at the time of his evaluation.

Craig underwent a translabyrinthine craniotomy with excision of his tumor by Drs Craig Buchman (Otolaryngology) and Matt Ewend (Neurosurgery). Postoperatively, he did very well being discharged from the hospital in 3 days with all of his normal functions except for a loss of his limited hearing in the operated ear. Following an uneventful recuperation period, Craig returned to the baseball field 3 months postoperatively. While his pitching was wild according to his brother who was also his catcher, this was not unusual for the submarine style pitcher.

Acoustic neuroma (aka vestibular schwannoma) is a benign tumor that can arise along the course of the 8th cranial nerve between the brainstem and inner ear within the intracranial cavity. These tumors are mostly slow growing and commonly result in hearing loss in the affected ear making referral to an otolaryngologist common. As acoustic neuromas grow, patients can experience balance disturbance and dizziness, facial weakness or numbness, and occasionally severe headaches and incoordination from brain compression.
Chair’s Corner

As you can see in this issue of Heads Up, we have made some truly remarkable progress in the way we manage our patients. Specifically, the resection of an acoustic tumor in a person who is a top flight college baseball prospect resulting with a completely intact vestibular function is quite remarkable.

A tremendously exciting opportunity for us is the addition of Dr. Andrea Jarchow-Garcia to our staff as a facial plastic surgeon. Andrea is extremely well qualified and presents with outstanding recommendations from Case Western Reserve as well as Dr. Calvin Johnson under whom she did her fellowship in New Orleans. She will add a dimension of cosmetic surgery to our armamentarium in the Facial Plastic and Reconstructive area. I am really looking forward to her arrival as well as the impending addition of our head and neck fellow this July.

Our department continues to progress in a positive direction on all fronts and we are better able to educate residents and students now than ever before.

Happy Holidays to All,

Harold C. Pillsbury, MD

THE PILLSBURY RESIDENCY PROGRAM
Golf Challenge & Golf Outing

On Friday, January 27 at conclusion of morning scientific session at the Triological Society 2012 Combined Sections Meeting held in Miami, Florida, the Pillsbury Residency Program Golf Challenge & Golf Outing will commence. Competition will be a four man scramble format. Each residency program should develop foursomes of residents and alumni from their institution. Individual players and foursomes are invited to participate. The golf outing will be coordinated by Susanne Marx, The Golf Event Company. All golfers must pre-register. Onsite availability cannot be guaranteed. The registration form and additional information will be posted.

Requests for refunds must be made by or before January 12, 2012. Email marsha@triological.org or fax 402-346-5300. There is a $50 processing fee for all refunds. Refunds will not be given after January 12. “No shows” will not receive a refund.

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In patients with any of these symptoms, high-resolution MRI can reveal the diagnosis.

Treatment options for individuals with an acoustic neuroma have evolved over the years. Prior to the 1990’s, surgery was considered the mainstay for nearly all individuals as a means of preventing late complications in the elderly or to reverse severe, life-threatening symptoms in those with large tumors. As medical research has better documented the natural history of these lesions and the increasing ability of radiation to control tumor growth, options have emerged for managing these tumors.

It is now clear that patients with acoustic tumors can achieve excellent long-term results when managed with observation and periodic imaging, stereotactic radiation, surgical excision or some combination thereof. Importantly, patients must now recognize that each of these options represents an active treatment choice with a unique set of risks and benefits. With the increased number of options, decision-making regarding the optimal treatment choice for a given patient has become somewhat more complex but remains a highly personal decision that is best achieved through multidisciplinary input.

At UNC, we have embraced these concepts and evolving treatment paradigms creating an integrated, Multidisciplinary Skull Base Program. In most instances, within the span of a single day, patients see each of the specialists (neurotologist, neurosurgeon, neuro-oncologist, radiation oncologist, etc) that their needs and desires dictate. From initial consultation to treatment and long-term follow-up, the skull base program at UNC was created to provide effective, efficient, and safe care for patients using the most innovative state of the art technologies while providing the highest level of patient satisfaction.

The Skull Base Program at UNC evaluates more than 200 new patients per year with a variety of skull base disorders using the integrated resources and environment. Surgical approaches that span the entire base of the skull are in common use daily. The combination of modern surgical approaches, functional neuromonitoring and image guidance allow for minimized morbidity. Acute postoperative care is carried out by neuro-intensive care specialists in a dedicated neuro intensive care unit. Stereotactic radiosurgery is delivered with the Cyberknife. This modern approach is now delivering better outcomes for patients with these challenging conditions.
We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Jarchow-Garcia as she joins our faculty. Her fellowship training was with Dr. Calvin Johnson who is one of the legends in our specialty. She will add a new dimension to our Facial Plastic Surgery Program with her expertise in Facial Rejuvenation.

- Dr. William W. Shockley

We welcome Dr. Jarchow-Garcia back to North Carolina!

After graduating from Davidson College, Andrea Jarchow-Garcia obtained her M.D. degree from Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. She subsequently completed an Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery residency at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, Ohio. Following residency, Dr. Jarchow-Garcia was selected as an accredited fellow for the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. She spent her fellowship year under the mentorship of Dr. Calvin Johnson in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Dr. Johnson is well respected in the field of facial cosmetic surgery lecturing worldwide for his innovations in rhinoplasty and surgery of the aging face. He focuses on providing a natural facial appearance. Dr. Jarchow-Garcia follows these principles of restoring natural facial harmony received under Dr. Johnson's tutelage. She is board certified in Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery and is a member of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Dr. Jarchow-Garcia’s concentrations during her fellowship year included:

**Surgery of the Aging Face**
- Browlifts
- Upper and Lower Eyelid Surgery
- Facelifts
- Neck Lifts
- Facial Liposuction

**Rhinoplasty**
- Traumatic Injury to the Nose
- Primary Cosmetic Nasal Surgery
- Secondary Cosmetic Nasal Surgery

**Facial Implants**
- Chin Implants
- Cheek Implants

**Otoplasty**
- Surgery for the protruding ears

**Non-Surgical Facial Rejuvenation**
- Botox
- Dysport
- Restylane
- Juvederm
- Perlane

Dr. Jarchow-Garcia will begin taking appointments at the UNC Neuroscience and Carolina Pointe offices January 2012
“Patients do judge the quality of clinical care they receive. However, they base their judgments on far more than the technical interventions, many of which they are unaware.”

—Irwin Press, Patient Satisfaction: Defining, Measuring, and Improving the Experience of Care

UNC-Chapel Hill clinic, Carolina Pointe, placed twice among the “TOP FIVE” of all the ambulatory clinics during the latest quarterly release of the UNCHCS Patient Satisfaction scores. Carolina Pointe houses the Speech and Audiology Clinic and ENT Clinic. Each quarter, UNC Health Care’s Ambulatory Patient Experience (APEX) Team recognizes the Top 5 clinics at UNC Health Care based on the results of the Press Ganey Patient Satisfaction survey. The Top 5 Clinic designation was reflective of the mean score from April – June 2011 (94.8 overall mean score). The FYTD mean score is 92.6.

In conjunction with the Commitment to Caring initiative, the Ambulatory Patient Experience Team (APEX), recognizes quarterly winners. This includes announcing clinic names and scores in several publications, and Dr. Donald Spencer, Medical Director and VP Ambulatory Care, formally acknowledges clinics and presents them with a poster, mentioning the clinics that are ranked the top 5 for the quarter.

Dr. Spencer visited Carolina Pointe on August 26 to personally congratulate the department on their success.

UNC Health Care News Online produced a video about the awards, and the video features ENT nurse, Patricia Perry speaking about her joy of being at Carolina Pointe:

- “We have fun patients. We really do. We get to know our patients, just like our friends. We have patients that come all the time, and they are like our friends. We make our patients feel welcome, feel like they are at home, and we offer coffee and juice! It’s a nice little happy family.”

Recognized as a leader in performance improvement for 25 years, Press Ganey partners with more than 10,000 health care organizations to create and sustain high performing organizations, and, ultimately, improve the overall health care experience. The company offers a comprehensive portfolio of solutions to help clients operate efficiently, improve quality, increase market share and optimize reimbursement. Press Ganey works with clients from across the continuum of care – hospitals, medical practices, home health agencies and other providers – including 50% of all U.S. hospitals. For more information, visit pressganey.com.


CAROLINA POINTE STAFF FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Robin Gunter, RN, Katherine Eng, PBA, Joanne McClain-Griffin, LPN, Angel Jeffries, PBA, and Patricia Perry, RN

CAROLINA POINTE RANKS AS A TOP FIVE CLINIC

We make our patients feel welcome, like they are at home.
- Patricia Perry in Top 5 video
Recently, Dr. Newton D Fischer celebrated his 90th birthday with family and close friends. Depicted is Fischer with his daughters, Amelia and Jeannette cutting his cake, and with his grandson Jake, who is now attending the second year of medical school at UNC. Born on October 21, 1921, he is enjoying his retirement immensely and watches his favorite TV channel, National Geographic, as he is too old to travel.

One of his gifts was an artistic rendition of an orchid, pictured left, painted by retired researcher Dr. George Prazma, who continues to consult on middle ear effusion studies and cares for his breath-taking assortment of water lilies, which would be the envy of the likes of Monet.
Adam Zanation, MD collaborated on a paper about minimally invasive surgery for nasopharyngeal cancer. The paper *Endoscopic Endonasal Transpterygoid Nasopharyngectomy*, was accepted and has been ePublished ahead of print for the *Laryngoscope*.

Amelia Drake, MD made a splash in a UNC Health Care video. Dr. Drake was featured in the ongoing series, *real doctors, real people* about her experience as a Pediatric Otolaryngologist, and how participating in the Carolina Masters Crew Club helps to clear her mind.

In addition, Dr. Shores was nominated to the WHO Global Initiative for Emergency and Essential Surgical Care (GIEESC) Surgical Mission & Partnerships Coordinating Committee.

Craig Buchman, MD was mentioned in article written by UNC Health Care, “Family House Diaries: Being a Good Patient, Becoming a Better Nurse.” Patient Geneane Marshall came to UNC-CH for treatment for a benign tumor at the base of her skull, and she shares her story about the treatment and care she received.

Drs. Holly Teagle and Pat Roush presented a workshop on Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder at the 2011 AG Bell Listening and Spoken Language Symposium hosted in Washington DC in July. This short course addressed the steps needed to make an audiological diagnosis of ANSD, commonly related medical conditions and recommended management practices.

Lillian Henderson, MSP, Lisa Park, AuD and Craig Buchman, MD were mentioned in an article featured on EverydayHealth.com. The article, “Sadie’s New Life: Happy and Thriving With Cochlear Implants,” follows the first few years of Sadie Mattice. Sadie, born deaf, received cochlear implants at 13 months of age, and now at 2-year-old flourishes in the hearing world.

ONLINE EXTRAS: Read the article and see the videos at [http://bit.ly/sU1fOu](http://bit.ly/sU1fOu)

Lisa Di Maria, AuD, audiologist with the pediatric cochlear implant program, was married to James Park on April 30th, 2011 in Durham, NC. James works in clinical research at Parexel. They were very touched that family and friends came from 13 different states to celebrate. Neither Lisa nor James are originally from North Carolina, but are happy to now call it home.

Adam Zanation, MD completed the Beach to Battleship Half Ironman Triathlon in Wilmington, NC on October 29, 2011. This was Dr. Zanation’s first triathlon and he enjoyed the 1.2 mile salt water swim, 56 mile bike ride and 13.1 mile run.


FROM THE STORK

Drs. Oliver and Marcia Adunka welcomed a baby girl, Maren Elaine, November 6

Dr. Jake Dahl and wife Noelle welcomed a baby girl, Mary Rose, August 12

Dr. Sara Mamo and husband Jared welcomed a baby boy, Brooks Walsh Butlin, September 20

Dr. English King and husband Stephen welcomed a baby girl, Ellery Rae, September 24
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Harold C. Pillsbury, MD, FACS, Chair, Thomas J. Dark Distinguished Professor of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery
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