

The actual MRI films as well as the interpretations were then put in the hands of Gushue's Canadian health care providers. Now some answers were possible.

It was discovered that Gushue had a reversal of the normal curvature of her neck, which was described as being one of the worst cases the doctor had ever seen. In addition, the MRI indicated that there were some bulging discs in her neck, one of them bulging so close to her spinal cord that there was nothing that really could be done.

Not only did the precise and prompt diagnostic work of Universal Imaging play an integral part, but also Dr. Greg Cooper of AIM was clearly the catalyst to Gushue's peace of mind.



In a photo taken before her motorcycle accident, Tina Gushue and her husband Bob Durocher prepare to head out on the highway. Unfortunately Gushue now cannot ride her motorcycle since the accident due to the restricted use of her left arm, right shoulder and neck.

Now, armed with the knowledge of her injuries, Gushue can continue to make choices dedicated to a return to optimum health. When asked about her decision to seek health care in the US she responds, "If I had to do it all over again, I wouldn't change a thing."

Otto Kjeldsen's nasal sounding voice would make you think that he was suffering from a horrible cold. A cold would have been a welcome alternative to Kjeldsen who was actually suffering from sinus polyps. Sleeping, breathing and speaking became

everyday struggles for this 54-year-old Mooretown entrepreneur.

With a fair geographical distance between Kjeldsen and the IHP Windsor office, email, fax machines and Purolator became the communication tools of choice.

Faced with corporate concerns and travel, IHP and Henry Ford Hospital ([www.henryford.com](http://www.henryford.com)), 2799 West Grand Boulevard in Detroit, Michigan bent over backwards to accommodate Kjeldsen's scheduling needs.

After his consultation with Dr. Scott McLean, a Henry Ford Group physician from the Department of Otolaryngology, Kjeldsen underwent surgery to remove all sinus polyps.

My follow-up phone call was interesting, as not only did I not recognize Kjeldsen's voice, he actually sounded much younger.

I was elated to hear him say, "I immediately started sleeping better. It's been a wonderful relief."

Since his surgery, Kjeldsen has elected to return to Henry Ford Hospital to undergo allergy testing, where we continue to appreciate their impeccable standards of patient care.

In order to keep care quality high and costs low, Kjeldsen's testing was facilitated to create a 'one stop shopping experience.' Henry Ford Hospital afforded Kjeldsen the time and attention necessary to allow all of his tests, results and consultations to occur within the very same visit.

For someone who needs every free moment he can squeeze out of a day, this was worry free health care 'catering' indeed.

Kjeldsen reflects on his decision to seek health care in the US by saying, "The experience was definitely worth it. Dr. McLean was very thorough and it is nice to know that I have my health back and everything is taken care of."

As part of IHP's service of obtaining medical care for Canadians by US healthcare professionals, the details of cost concerns and time horizons for care are addressed immediately. To make this as smooth as pos-

sible, certain questions need to be answered.

The first question always, and rightfully so, revolves around costs. Canadian physicians, on behalf of their patients, can submit a request to the Ontario Ministry of Health for pre-approval to receive medical care in the United States.

Based on the information submitted by the physician, OHIP may pay for the services. If OHIP denies the claim, patients may pay in advance for these appointments with out-of-pocket funds.


For diagnostic tests such as MRI, PET scans, CT and ultrasounds, a physician's prescription is always required. A prescription is not required for a second opinion, consultation, preventative testing such as body scans, or procedures following a consultation.

For a consultation with a US specialist, IHP clients can expect to pay a couple of hundred dollars. All payments are made in US funds in the form of cash, certified cheques drawn on a US bank, US money order or bank draft. For the more complex treatments or surgeries there is a wide range of price, but not before a preferential discount afforded to IHP clients.

There is no standard list of prices as each procedure depends on a variety of factors such as anesthesia, which doctor and facility, hospital bed and others. At the end of the day it becomes a very personal choice.

For some people, a new hip or knee is well worth the \$20,000 price tag. They were saving it for a vacation or a new vehicle, yet were in too much pain to enjoy either.

International Health Care Providers Inc. can expedite the connection to the US health care provider including all administration, travel and scheduling needs. The only thing the patient really needs to do is show up...to the front of the line!

Each of us deserves prompt medical care so we can enjoy the life that we have created for ourselves. Taking walks with your grandchildren or actively pursuing career goals fuels a sense of joy and fulfillment so great there is no room for pain or restriction. 

  
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