

Campbell Clinic's global reach helps English teenager heal, ride again

Each year Campbell Clinic's reputation for excellence in orthopaedic surgery attracts patients from across the nation and, increasingly, from around the world.

Lilly Hanbury, 15, from Petersfield, England, traveled more than 4,000 miles to have Dr. Bill Warner and Dr. Jim Calandrucchio of Campbell Clinic perform surgery after a non-healing compound fracture of her right leg left her on crutches for months and unable to participate in the activities she loved.

"The services of Campbell Clinic and the skill of Dr. Warner and Dr. Calandrucchio, along with Lilly's follow-up care, were just extraordinary," said Daphne Hanbury, Lilly's mother. "We weren't able to find a specialist in England we felt had the level of competence and knowledge of leading-edge technology that was available at Campbell Clinic. Every aspect of Lilly's experience at Campbell Clinic was exceptional."

A KICK DOES SERIOUS DAMAGE

An experienced horsewoman who has been riding since she was five, Lilly was on an afternoon ride in the

country with friends when the horse in front of her kicked at Lilly's horse, striking Lilly's leg. After a long wait in the emergency room of the nearest medical facility, Lilly learned that she had suffered an open fracture of the tibia.

"I didn't think it hurt much," Lilly said, "but I learned later that was because I was in shock. The doctor told my mum that it was a serious break."

Two surgeries were performed during the first three days after the accident, and Lilly went home on crutches. When her cast was removed 12 weeks later, x-rays revealed that her tibia was not healing. Nine months after the accident, when there was still no evidence of healing, doctors suggested that Lilly see a specialist for non-healing wounds.

"The injury was a terrible inconvenience, with someone having to carry Lilly's books all the time at school and that sort of thing," her mother said. "Worse was the fact that a very spirited young girl couldn't participate in normal activities, and we couldn't see an end to the problem."



James H. Calandrucchio, M.D.



William C. Warner, M.D.



Lilly is back on a horse this spring, playing polo on a club team. She is also playing on the lacrosse team at her school, and she's enjoying one of her favorite social activities, dancing, once again.



FACTS: TIBIA FRACTURES

- Tibia fractures are the most common of all long-bone fractures.
- The National Center for Health Statistics has reported an average occurrence rate of approximately 492,000 fractures of the tibia and fibula in the U.S. each year.
- Despite treatments with casts, plates, intermedullary nails or external fixators, more than 50,000 Americans suffer from a non-union of the tibia annually.

A FORTUNATE CONNECTION

Daphne Hanbury considers herself “extremely lucky” to have known about Campbell Clinic at the time of Lilly’s injury.

“I grew up in Memphis, and I was treated at Campbell Clinic when I was a girl,” said Daphne, who is the daughter of Daphne and Snowden Boyle Jr. of Memphis. “Jim Calandruccio’s wife is one of my childhood friends. So I called Dr. Calandruccio, and he agreed to have the Campbell Clinic staff review Lilly’s case.” At Dr. Calandruccio’s suggestion, the Hanburys also talked to a specialist in England.

“When the specialist here said they would try to repair Lilly’s leg by inserting a Russell Nail, Dr. Calandruccio told me, ‘The Russell Nail is made here in Memphis, and we have a research study underway involving the Russell Nail.’ That helped convince me that we should go to Campbell Clinic.”

One week later, Lilly was in Memphis, undergoing the surgery that helped her resume the active life of a normal teenager.

A SUPERB PATIENT, COMPLETELY HEALED

Drs. Warner and Calandruccio inserted an intramedullary nail in Lilly’s tibia, securing the rod with locking screws. Lilly remained in Memphis for two weeks, enjoying an extended visit with her grandmother while undergoing physical therapy.

When she returned to England, local physicians sent x-rays to Memphis so that Campbell Clinic could monitor Lilly’s progress. Four months later, during the Christmas holidays, the English teenager returned to Memphis to have the supporting screws removed.

“Lilly was a superb patient, with a delightful attitude despite her quite devastating injury,” Dr. Calandruccio said. “Her family support was widespread and enthusiastic. Today, her fracture has completely healed and she is left with only minor inconvenience.”

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A STRONG NETWORK OF SUPPORT

“From the time Lilly arrived at Campbell Clinic through the surgery and her follow-up care at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center, the entire experience was completely positive,” Lilly’s mother said.

“I think what makes Campbell Clinic so outstanding, and what we didn’t see in England, was the extraordinary network of support that exists there, from research and education that enables the surgeons to learn advanced techniques and become so skilled, to such competent administration and sensitive patient care,” said Mrs Hanbury. “Every step confirmed to us that Campbell Clinic was the right choice to care for our Lilly.”

