



# דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

לע"נ  
הרה"ת ר' מנחם מענדל  
בן הרה"ת שד"ר ר' בנימין ע"ה  
שם טוב

נולד כ"ח סיון תרצ"א  
גלב"ע י"ג ניסן ה'תשס"ו

# No Need for Surgery

AS TOLD BY RABBI NOAM COHEN (OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND)

On Erev Shabbos Selichos, our son Meir injured his ankle while playing basketball with his friends at Yeshivas Tzeirei Hashluchim in Tzefas. Although he experienced pain and had difficulty walking, he did not feel the need to seek medical attention. On Wednesday night, five days after the incident, he complained about the pain to my wife and she insisted that he have his foot examined at the hospital immediately.

After examining the x-rays, the doctors discovered that in addition to two fractures in the left leg bone, Meir had

sustained a tillaux fracture: the leg bone was dislocated from the ankle by more than 2 mm. Urgent surgery was needed to fix the problem. We sought a second opinion from a family member who is a prominent doctor at Shaarei Tzedek Hospital in Yerushalayim, and he agreed that immediate surgery was required.

Since the surgery required full anesthesia and Meir is a minor, a parent needed to be present for the doctors to go ahead with the procedure. It was Thursday evening and Sunday night was Rosh Hashanah. There was no way we



FIRST X-RAY.



SECOND X-RAY.

could make it to Eretz Yisrael before Wednesday, Tzom Gedalya. We decided that Meir should travel back to the US after Rosh Hashanah to have the surgery close to home. Meanwhile, the doctors applied a cast to his leg to prevent further damage to the bone.

Flying back home presented a whole set of challenges. Firstly, the airline would not allow Meir to fly with the cast. It was removed and his leg was set in a special brace. In addition, since his foot needed to be elevated throughout the flight, we needed to purchase a business class ticket. Business class seats on the first flight out after Rosh Hashanah were unavailable and the price of a first class ticket was exorbitant. *Behashgacha pratis*, at the last moment, a passenger upgraded to first class, and Meir was able to fly home on Tzom Gedalya.

Our orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Florian Huber, agreed with the diagnosis of the doctors in Israel and scheduled Meir for surgery early Monday morning, Ches Tishrei. He explained to us that after such a surgery there is a six-month healing process for the foot to return to normal functionality.

Each year before Yom Kippur, I travel with a group of *mekuravim* to New York to visit the Ohel and to do *kapparos* in Crown Heights. On Sunday, Zayin Tishrei, while we were driving to New York, Meir's situation was on our minds and we all planned to request a *bracha* from the Rebbe on his behalf. I told them that in such situations the Rebbe would

suggest that the proper *bracha* to ask for is that there should be no need for a surgery at all. This is exactly what I wrote in my *tzetzl* that afternoon at the Ohel.

We left the Ohel at approximately 7:00 p.m. and headed to Crown Heights for *kapparos*. At approximately the same time, Meir told my wife that he was feeling a strange sensation above his ankle.

Early the next morning we arrived at the clinic for Meir's operation. He was wheeled into the operating room and we remained in the waiting room anxiously reciting Tehillim.

Fifteen minutes later, Dr. Huber entered the waiting room with an incredulous smile.

"After putting Meir to sleep with anesthesia, we took one last x-ray, as is procedure before starting the operation. The x-ray shows that there is no *tillaux* fracture and the bones are exactly where they should be. There is no need to operate! This is a miracle!"

Due to the two other fractures in the leg bone, Meir needed to wear a cast for several weeks. Boruch Hashem, his foot healed quickly, and on Yud-Daled Kislev, Meir returned to yeshiva, happy and healthy. **T**

## YOUR STORY

Share your story with A Chassidisher Derher by emailing [stories@derher.org](mailto:stories@derher.org).