

To whom it may concern:

Our son Ivan was born with a condition known as Microtia. It is a congenital birth defect in which either ear does not fully form at birth. In many cases the inner ear does not fully form as well. In our son's case, he was born with only a small left lobe instead of the fully formed ear. In hopes of restoring his ear in the best possible way, we decided to go ahead and have surgery performed to correct his condition. Ivan was 6 years old when he had his first surgery. Including a surgery that included his inner ear, he had a total of 4 surgeries. Needless to say and after much pain and anguish, the end result of the surgeries did not produce the results we were expecting. While we did not expect a perfect ear, the end result did not produce what one would call a likeness to an ear. It actually looked worse and out of place.

We were devastated with the outcome. Our son as well was very disappointed and discouraged. The thought of having to go through more surgeries to try to correct his ear was too much for him to bare and have to go through more pain and disappointment.

One day Ivan approached us and indicated that he no longer wanted anything else to do with trying to repair his ear. He no longer wanted to have any type of surgery done.

Enough was enough.

It is evident that these physicians who claim that they can reconstruct a body part should no longer be taking part in these attempts. The surgeries and promises that these physicians make give false hope. They are both barbaric and inhumane and greatly affect people's lives. Our son has not only been physically scarred but emotionally as

well. As parents we do not recommend any type of reconstructive surgery. If we could do things differently we would have. Our regret is that we should have been better educated and more aware of other alternatives available.

It was blessing however to have discovered a person that was the answer to our prayers. We had the good fortune to have seen an article about Robert Barron of Custom Prosthetic Designs, Inc. in Virginia, in People Magazine and the wonderful work that he has done for many other people in similar situations such as ours. Without hesitation we immediately contacted him via email and explained our situation. Mr. Barron responded the very next day and indicated that he knew what we were going through and said that he would be able to help us. While Ivan has grown accustomed to his present condition, his gratitude goes out to Mr. Barron for changing his life and giving him new hope in living a more normal life. Mr. Barron and his talent of developing and creating prosthetics and particularly Ivan's ear, have given Ivan confidence and a better way of life. Our hope is that other people would consider this alternative rather than the painful experience to endure surgery, and the scars, both physical and emotional, that come with it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eddie Luna', written in a cursive style.

Eddie Luna