

## Ema Petrova

**Diagnosis:** Sprengel-Deformity

**Surgery:** Woodward-OP (complex scapula correction, left side – 300 minutes/ neuromonitoring/ ITS)

**Department:** Michael Wachowsky, MD, chief physician  
clinic for pediatric orthopedics and neuro-orthopedics

**Nationality:** Bulgaria

**Age:** 6 years



*“There are not enough words to thank Dr. Wachowsky and the whole team! We are grateful for everything they did for us. Not only for the surgery but the attitude, the understanding and the support.”*



*We are Yoana and Krasimir. We are from Sofia, Bulgaria. Our daughter Ema was born October 2012. When she was 10 months old she was diagnosed with Sprengel Deformity.*

Sprengel deformity is a congenital condition characterized by abnormal development and elevation of the scapula. Severity can range considerably from being almost invisible when covered with clothes (grade 1), to the shoulder being elevated over five centimeters (grade 4), with neck webbing and results in symptomatic cosmetic and functional disability.

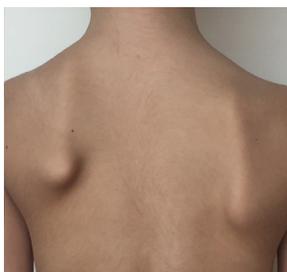
We couldn't find a doctor in Bulgaria who has experienced with this rare condition. That's why we started our own research. We have been in touch with a few doctors abroad who didn't recommend us a surgery because Ema's deformity was not so heavy. At this time her deformity was grade 1-2. She had full functionality of her arm with no restrictions and it wasn't so visible with clothes. They told us that the result from the surgery would be more cosmetic than functional and the risks of surgery outweigh the benefits. Meanwhile she was diagnosed with Neutropenia so the decision for the surgery was postponed.



However, with the years the deformity became more visible and we were afraid that it could get worse. Here is important to mention that the recommended age of surgical correction of Sprengel is between 3 to 8 years.

In December 2018, Ema was already 6 years old, a friend of ours recommended us to contact Rummelsberg Hospital where their two kids had other kind of orthopedic surgeries. They gave us the contact details to their international department and this is how we contacted Natallia Henova. She was really kind and replied immediately. For a few days we arranged our first visit to their hospital and in January we met Dr. Wachowsky for a consultation. Dr. Wachowsky is familiar with this kind of deformity and he explained us everything detailed and correctly. At this time Ema deformity was grade 2-3.

He said that he can do the surgery if we want. We flight back to Bulgaria and after two weeks we had the decision to do the surgery.





It was planned for May 2019 but due to Ema's health issue in the last moment we postponed it by a month. So in June we arrived in Nurnberg and we were admitted in the hospital the day before the surgery. At this time Ema's deformity was getting worse and within six months the affected shoulder was elevated by two more centimeters.



When we arrived, everything was so well planned by all the doctors and the staff. They all were really kind and helpful which helped us a lot to go through this hard time. The surgery was on 27th June and it took seven hours. The longest day in our life.

After that we stayed eight days in the hospital and two weeks after the surgery we flew back to Bulgaria. Ema's arm was immobilized with a bandage.

A month after the surgery we go back to the hospital to remove the bandage and to start a physiotherapy.



Today, seven months after the surgery Ema is doing great! She is still doing physiotherapy twice a week and also does a lot of sports as swimming, dance, yoga and taekwondo. It took time to correct the position of her body because of the deformity she has grown incorrect.

*„There are not enough words to thanks Dr. Wachowsky and the whole team! We are grateful for everything they did for us. Not only for the surgery but the attitude, the understanding and the support. Special thanks go to Natallia who was with us the whole time and assisted us with everything.“*

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