

I guess this is not a usual testimonial letter praising the surgical skills of Elsa Raskin.

She is and has been a wonderful surgeon, but so are a lot of plastic/ reconstructive surgeons out there. Looking at her impeccable training and credentials she is at the top of her field, but she shares her excellence with many others in the metropolitan region. So why am I writing this when I have to work, take care of a child, home etc. When I told Dr. Raskin I'd like to do this for her it was not because I needed to fill the hours of my day, but rather because as a person she has made a remarkable difference in my life.

Last August after having been diagnosed with cancer I came to Dr. Raskin a week prior to surgery. She was not on a list of doctors to use for the reconstructive surgery I would undergo. She was new to the area and to the hospital. Fortunately, by researching the backgrounds and credentials of various plastic surgeons who might take my insurance I came for a consultation. Dr. Raskin listened to my concerns and discussed the surgical possibilities with me. She was honest when she stated she did not have much experience in dealing with a rare autoimmune disorder I also have (very, very few surgeons do). A disorder that might provide myriad complications to any surgery under the best of conditions no matter how talented the doctor might be. On my pre op office visit Dr. Raskin. took the time to speak with my son trying to help ease his fears over my illness and upcoming surgeries. Perhaps her words were meant to ease mine as well.

It is now months later, a few surgeries later, some minor complications as anticipated and some that were not. Through it all Dr. Raskin has met me whenever needed to deal with any complications that arose, never once sending me to another doctor or emergency room. She has gotten to know me, listens patiently to my concerns and continues to put me back together as best can be done. Her empathy of my need to appear as I did prior to my diagnosis has been reflected in her time and energies spent with me. Her attention to every minute detail is ever present. Perhaps most importantly, she has helped me to smile, laugh, get through it all and even look to tomorrow. An ability that sets her far apart from the other experts in her field.

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