



CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
1979 MARCUS AVENUE
LAKE SUCCESS, NY 11042-1002
516-326-7767; FAX 516-326-1034
WEB SITE AT <http://www.ipro.org>

June 27, 2001

Ang Dong
10 Carol Drive
Poughkeepsie, New York 12603

Re: External Review Determination
Reference #: 200105-2912

Dear Mr. Dong:

IPRO has completed review of all documentation relative to your request for external appeal on behalf of Alexi Dong and has determined that the decision of United Healthcare to deny coverage for a Dynamic Orthotic Cranioplasty Band should be reversed.

Review of this appeal was conducted by a physician whose specialty corresponds with the nature of the patient's illness. IPRO has screened this clinical reviewer for any prohibited material affiliation and has determined that none exists.

Documentation submitted for review included:

- New York State External Appeal Application filed by Ang Dong for Alexi Dong 5/10/01.
- Letter from H. Tehrani, MD to A. Dong dated 4/4/01.
- Letter from A. Dong to NYS Insurance Department dated 5/10/01.
- Letter from T. Littlefield to Dr. Manion dated 11/16/00.
- Letter from J. Persing, MD to the Yale Craniofacial Center dated 10/20/00.
- Letter from A. Dong to United Healthcare dated 1/4/01.
- Letter from J. Manion, MD to J. Persing, MD dated 11/13/00.
- Cephalic Disorders Fact Sheet, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke http://www.ninds.nih.gov/health_and_medical/pubs/cephalicdisorders.htm.
- Littlefield, Timothy MD, et al., "Treatment of Craniofacial Asymmetry with Dynamic Orthotic Cranioplasty" *The Journal of Craniofacial Surgery* (9:1) January 1998 pp. 11-17.
- CSMC Pediatrics/Medical Genetics: Management of Plagiocephaly and Torticollis, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Department of Pediatrics <http://www.csmc.edu/pediatrics/refguide/helmet/.html>.
- Ripley, Catherine, MA et al., "Treatment of Positional Plagiocephaly with Dynamic Orthotic Cranioplasty." *The Journal of Craniofacial Surgery* (5:3) July 1994 pp. 150-159.
- Marshall, Deidre, MD, et. al. "Abnormal Head Shape in Infants" *International Pediatrics* (12:3) 1997 pp. 172-177.
- News Article from Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Cramer, Barb "Cranio-facial Surgery Program Restores Health of Children with Severe Skull Malformations."
- Cranial Dysfunction in Otitis Media, American Whole Health, Inc. <http://www.americanwholehealth.com/whlibrary/osteopathy/do0006.htm>.
- Plagiocephaly, Ask Dr. Stoll <http://ben.net/~plagio.html>.
- Kelly, Kevin MD et al. "Cranial Growth Unrestricted during Treatment of Deformational Plagiocephaly," *Pediatric Neurosurgery* (30) 1999 pp. 193-199.
- Positional Plagiocephaly, Medical College of Georgia <http://www.mcg.edu/SOM/surgery/ncuros/plagio.html>.

*Experts in Defining and Improving
the Quality of Healthcare*

Ang Dong
June 27, 2001
Page 2

- American Medical Association House of Delegates, AMA-Committee A Resolution 119 I-97
<http://www.ama-assn.org/meetings/public/int97res119.html>.
- 8 Original photos of Alexi Dong.
- Case Management Notes for Alexi Dong.
- Plan Medical Benefit Exclusions.
- Letter from J. Persing to Cranial Technologies dated 10/26/00.
- Letter from H. Piccola requesting pre-authorization not dated.
- Product information on the Dynamic Orthotic Cranioplasty (DOC) Band.
- Policy Coverage, NonCovered Services/Limitations and Exclusions.
<http://kl/content/guidelines%20%26%20clinical%20p.../2000T0031Adetail.html.dontreloa>.
- Positional Molding, Positional Plagiocephaly <http://www.kidsplassurg.com/cranmold.html>.
- Letter from B.L. Agarwal, MD, To Whom It May Concern.

The basis for this determination is as follows:

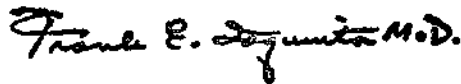
This case involves a infant diagnosed with plagiocephaly and torticollis. The DOC band as recommended by the treating physician and is presently in use. The insurance company denied the band as it is their assertion that there is no functional deficit due to the plagiocephaly and that the band would be just to improve appearance.

This device is not used for "cosmetic" purposes, but rather for "reconstruction." Cosmetic surgery is defined as surgery used to reshape normal structures of body...to improve a patients appearance. This patient had a deformity of the skull caused by a head position. If left untreated the ears can also move into abnormal positions. This baby's head was not normal. This is clearly not a cosmetic treatment and should be considered a covered benefit. Please see neurosurgery Focus 9 (3), May 2000. This device is the preferred method of treating positional plagiocephaly after re-positioning and physical therapy have failed. This is the standard of care for treatment of this disorder.

Therefore, the decision of United Healthcare to deny coverage for a dynamic orthotic cranioplasty band should be reversed.

Should you have any questions in regard to this review determination please do not hesitate to call me or Terese Zappala at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



Frank E. Iaquinta, MD
Medical Director, Healthcare Assessment

Cc: Jayne Cappiello, United Healthcare
Richard Russman, New York State Insurance Department

FEI:cmm