



February 20, 2009

To whom it may concern:

The portrayal of the Dontae Adams case, we believe, has now stirred up controversy and has blurred if nothing else the public perception of what is considered the standard of care as it relates to injuries such as Dontae's. As board certified plastic surgeons, we understand that it is inaccurate to imply that surgery is the only method to treat Dontae's injury. In fact physicians at both the University of Chicago and at Stroger hospital acted within the acceptable limits of what we consider the standard of care and this is justified by established practices and their own considered judgment. Both institutions in this case met that high standard.

Each response carries a different set of risks and benefits. Of course, different clinicians will come to different decisions on occasion. Our job as plastic surgeons is to make the best judgment in line with our training and experience. Precisely because of our training and experience, we believe Dontae would have been well served either with delayed surgery, as the University of Chicago team recommended, or with the immediate surgery performed by the physicians at Stroger Hospital. Both options are acceptable responses to an injury such as Dontae's.

We do not want to allow any medical issues to be distorted in the media or anywhere else as it may be used to wrongly direct patient care. As physicians, and in particular for plastic surgeons, it is rare, if ever that there is only one method available to treat a difficult problem. We want to correct the record now, and highlight the fact that this young man ultimately did well, and hopefully in the future, we can focus on the prevention of injuries such as Dontae's.

Sincerely,

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