



Teamwork: Together Everyone Achieves More

Scott Kozin, M.D., chief of staff of Shriners Hospitals for Children® — Philadelphia, loves to tell the story of two, four, six, eight.

At 2 years old, Zion developed a serious infection that required his hands and feet to be amputated. At 4 years old, he received a kidney transplant; the donor was his mother, Pattie. Zion was taking anti-rejection drugs to keep his new kidney functioning. At age 6, Zion came to Shriners Hospitals for Children — Philadelphia for new prosthetic legs.

The evaluation of Zion’s lower extremities prior to his receiving those first prosthetics from Shriners Hospitals was the impetus that led to his hand transplantation. The idea to give Zion hands was possible because he met the prerequisite of already being a transplant recipient and successfully taking immunosuppressant medications.



History-Making Surgery

At 8 years old, Zion received the first bilateral pediatric hand transplantation at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia along with help from Penn Medicine, Gift of Life and hand surgeons from our Philadelphia hospital, Dr. Kozin and Dan Zlotolow, M.D. During the 11-hour procedure, four teams of physicians worked to transplant the hands from the donor to Zion. The procedure required boney fixation, artery and venous anastomosis along with nerve and tendon reconstruction. The surgery was successful.

“The collaboration between these institutions was necessary to assemble the team and organize the players to orchestrate such a complex and demanding procedure that had never been performed on a child,” said Dr. Kozin.

Becoming Independent

Zion is now three years post-hand transplant surgery.

Now 11 years old, he is a happy pre-teen and learning to be independent. He enjoys cooking and sports. “Zion is so comfortable living his normal life,” said Pattie. “He enjoys playing laser tag with his friends, boxing, and is attending robotics camp this summer.”

Zion continues to have occupational and physical therapy in his hometown. His mom couldn’t be more happy with his progress. As Zion continues to grow and get taller, Pattie will bring him back to the Philadelphia Shriners Hospitals for Children

to be fitted for a new set of prosthetic legs. In the meantime, she is delighted that Zion is becoming more independent every day at home, at play, and at school.

More on our Physicians

Scott Kozin, M.D., is the chief of staff of Shriners Hospitals for Children — Philadelphia and is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. He received an undergraduate degree in computer science from Duke University and earned a medical degree from Hahnemann University School of Medicine. Dr. Kozin completed his residencies in orthopaedic surgery at Albert Einstein Medical Center and Shriners Hospitals for Children — Philadelphia. He also completed a fellowship in hand and microvascular surgery at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Dan A. Zlotolow, M.D., is a board certified orthopaedic hand surgeon for Shriners Hospitals for Children — Philadelphia. He received an undergraduate degree with honors in biology from Haverford College and earned a medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine with early induction into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. Dr. Zlotolow completed his residency in orthopaedics at the Montefiore Medical Center in New York and hand fellowship at the Roosevelt Hospital in New York and the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas.

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