

# **DANIEL S. J. CHOY, MD, FACP**

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In February 1986 I, Daniel S.J. Choy invented and performed the first PLDD (PERCUTANEOUS LASER DISC DECOMPRESSION) at the Neurosurgical Center at the University of Graz, Austria together with Prof. Peter Ascher (Director of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Graz, Austria).

In November 2002 I was invited to the International Meeting "LASERFLORENCE" in Florence to teach the technique. My assistant student was a fully trained neurosurgeon Dr. Gian Paolo Tassi, from Grottammare (Italy). Our hosts in Florence were ill prepared, and Dr. Tassi and I spent the morning gathering the necessary equipment from several departments. Despite these difficulties we performed PLDD on two patients that afternoon in two hours, filmed by the Italian TV networks. During that time more than 150 telephone calls came in from all of Italy.

In 2002, 2004 and 2006 I trained Dr. Gian Paolo Tassi in doing PLDD (lumbar, dorsal and cervical) at the Laser Spine Center in New York City (I was the founder and the Director of the Laser Spine Center).

Dr Tassi was impressed with the results, went back to Grottammare, and has treated more than 3500 patients with herniated disc disease with a success rate of 85%.

I can state that I am impressed with Dr. Tassi in all respects: his open mind, his integrity, his skill, and his dedication to what is new and advanced in Medicine and Surgery.

In the 26 years I have trained approximately three hundred neuro and orthopedic surgeons all over the world except Russia, and of all the spine surgeons I have trained, I would state with complete honesty that Dr. Tassi is the number one. If I were under 80 years of age and I needed PLDD, I would only go to Dr. Tassi.

In conclusion Dr Tassi, in my estimation, is the best, and I regard him as my heir in PLDD all over the world. There is no greater compliment I can pay anyone!

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