

## Skilled Physician Assists With Birth of Miracle Child

When you see the sparkle of mischief in the eyes of 19-month-old Anastasia and the blissful smile on the face of Liana who tenderly tousles her daughter's the blond hair time and time again, you would never guess how much pain and frustration Liana and Alexander suffered during the years before this long-awaited baby was born.

"We were married more than 10 years ago," recalls Liana, "and dreamed of having a child since the very first day of our life together." Unable to conceive, Liana says she "went to every medical institution and every physician in Odessa for help, but even when my infertility problem was temporarily eliminated and I succeeded in becoming pregnant, I faced a new problem: carrying the child to term."

During the 22nd week of each of her first four pregnancies, Liana miscarried. When the fourth and last miscarriage took place in 1998, Liana sought help from the Oblast Family Planning Center at the Odessa Oblast Clinical Hospital, a member of the now-graduated AIHA Odessa/Coney Island partnership. "One of my friends recommended that I see Dr. Lydia Gumenyuk, a gynecologist/endocrinologist there," explains Liana, adding that from the moment she entered the Center, she was struck by how it differed from other places she had visited. Everything felt new to her. "The respectful attitudes of the medical staff, rooms furnished with state-of-the-art equipment, and diagnosis and treatment methodologies all reassured me, which was very important. I was struck by the fact that you can have a complete examination and get diagnosed there, while other institutions only offer a blood analysis," she stresses.

Immediately following Dr. Gumenyuk's initial examination, Liana was tested for Torch infections, which revealed that she was still suffering from toxoplasmosis despite having already undergone a long-term treatment procedure. Additionally, Dr.



Liana and Alexander Mozaniuk with their "miracle baby," 19-month-old Anastasiya. The couple struggled for years with infertility before Dr. Lydia Gumenyuk from the Odessa Family Planning Center helped them conceive.

Gumenyuk quickly diagnosed Liana with isthmico-cervical insufficiency—which had not been identified by any of the other physicians Liana had previously seen—and told her that her unsuccessful childbearing attempts were caused by these two problems, problems that could be resolved.

"I had to undergo another course of treatment for the toxoplasmosis before Dr. Gumenyuk could begin to stimulate conception, but this time, once she did, I became pregnant in a very short time. I knew then that I was now in very reliable hands because it had taken me about four years to become pregnant between my third and fourth conceptions despite active treatment," recalls Liana. "This time, during the 16th week of my pregnancy, they put a suture on my uterus neck to resolve the isthmico-cervical insufficiency. Thus, all the factors that prevented me from bearing a child were eliminated."

"Yet we still had a very difficult time ahead," she says, exchanging glances with Alexander, her husband. "We had suffered so much grief by that time and were afraid we would be disappointed yet again. I can-

Medical services are accessible to any woman of childbearing age needing comprehensive care at the Oblast Family Planning Center, which opened at the Odessa Oblast Clinical Hospital within the framework of the AIHA's Odessa/Coney Island partnership. Women there are seen by a skillful physicians who respect patient confidentiality and become partners in health with their patients. This is the story of one woman who, after 10 years of suffering from multiple miscarriages and infertility, successfully gave birth to a child thanks to the efforts of a doctor at the Center. The physician's story is on the other side.



not even imagine how I would have given birth to my child without Dr. Gumenyuk's moral support. The fact that I could let my hair down with her, talk about my problems, and discuss any issue troubling me, was of immeasurable importance. Dr. Gumenyuk saw all my suffering and the depth of our desire to have a child, and she assured me from the very first day that I would succeed this time. And I believed her," says Liana proudly. "If we decide to have another baby, I will only go to the Oblast Family Planning Center and Lydia Gumenyuk."

"She is heaven-born doctor," adds Alexander. "She is a highly skilled specialist, who makes a big difference. Her knowledge and talent helped us give birth to our Nastya. Sometimes we still find it hard to believe that we really have a daughter because we waited for her for almost 10 years. Nastya makes us incredibly happy, even though she does not allow us to sleep at nights," laughs Alexander, holding his child tightly in his arms.

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