

September 29, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

For decades I have been correcting clubfoot deformities with manipulation, casting, and usually a percutaneous tendo Achilles tenotomy. However, the clubfoot deformity has a high incidence of relapse unless a brace is worn at night and naptime until the child is three to four years old. The biggest problem we have experienced in treating clubfoot involves the bracing. The shoes which have been commercially available, made by the Markell Company, are stiff and not well contoured to the heel. Many babies do not tolerate the shoes and problems with rubbing and sores are constant. Because the babies are so uncomfortable, there is great difficulty with brace compliance and hence there are relapses.

Mr. John Mitchell has developed a sandal-type footwear which consists of a well molded plastic footplate and three soft leather straps. The foot is held securely to the footplate and there is no slippage. The babies do not require a period of adjustment but accept the brace readily. We have received numerous e-mails from parents around the world praising Mr. Mitchell's product. Many families have been fighting the battle of the shoes and are so relieved to finally have something that is easy to apply, is comfortable to the child, and provides the desired results.

Sincerely,

I.V. Ponseti, M.D.

IVP/jr