



**Name:** David Smith

**Summary:** Best Doctors' second opinion service saved David's life

### Background:

In 2005, David was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis (a chronic systematic inflammatory disorder that can affect many tissues, organs and, principally, joints). He tried many different treatment options that meant he was able to live a relatively normal life, but he continued to experience a significant level of discomfort.

Then, in 2009, David began experiencing stiffness and weakness in his limbs. His muscles started to deteriorate to the point where walking and day-to-day household duties were difficult. He was unable to continue working.

Understandably, David was desperate for answers, but none of his doctors or specialists could provide a definitive answer as to what was causing this frightening degeneration.

It was then that David's wife read about the Best Doctors service, which was available through their insurance. The option of having David's case reviewed by one of the world's leading rheumatoid arthritis specialists, for free and without having to leave home, seemed too good to be true.

### Treatment:

David's case was quickly referred to a professor of neurology from the Harvard School of Medicine in Boston. According to the professor's report, David was experiencing a rare negative reaction to a drug he was taking for his arthritis – the drug that was supposed to be helping him manage his condition was actually having the reverse effect.

In fact, the professor said that David's reaction to the drug would ultimately have proved fatal, as he had seen a similar case before in the US where the patient had died.

David passed the report on to his local doctors who reviewed it straight away. They were unaware of this very rare reaction and took David off the drug immediately.

### Outcome:

Within 12 months, David had recovered. He is now back at work and able to manage his condition. He's happy and looking forward to living a relatively normal life.

**“All his doctors agreed they learnt from the experience and will be alert to other possible cases like this in the future. So not only have they helped David, but potentially other people with similar problems.”**

*Lisa, David's wife*



**Please note:**

This case study is based on real facts. However, in order to respect and maintain the patient's privacy and confidentiality, all personal details have been modified. Any similarity to actual persons is purely coincidental. Photographs are used for illustrative purposes only.