

*This story is part of a series highlighting the potentially life-saving power of CriticalADVANTAGE™ – a unique insurance policy issued by Transamerica Life Canada that combines the vast medical resources of Best Doctors® with up to \$1 million (Canadian funds) in affordable out-of-country medical expense coverage.*

## Sara: The Informed Patient

At age 33, Sara<sup>1</sup> suddenly started to lose her vision and, in less than 2 weeks, she was almost totally blind. Sara immediately consulted her doctor, who ordered an MRI and told her that she had a tumour in her brain that was very close to her optic nerves. Sara was scheduled to undergo a high-risk brain surgery to remove the tumour within days of her diagnosis.

The same day that Sara received her diagnosis, she contacted her insurance company. Thanks to the provisions of her policy<sup>2</sup>, she was immediately put in touch with a Best Doctors Personal Care Manager who collected medical information from Sara and her doctor, including a copy of the MRI.

After an initial review by a roundtable of Best Doctors experts – a methodology known as the Medical Analytical Process – Best Doctors decided that it was critical to define the nature of the tumour in Sara's brain before conducting any surgical procedure.

Best Doctors contacted a prominent neurosurgeon as well as an expert neuroradiologist who reviewed her case and concluded that the mass in Sara's brain most likely was not a brain tumor at all, but rather Sarcoidosis—an inflammatory disease of unknown origin. A brain needle biopsy performed 72 hours after Sara's first contact with Best Doctors confirmed that she had Sarcoidosis. This surprising finding would change Sara's life.

Sarcoidosis is a disease that can be treated with oral medication. Based on this timely and highly effective intervention by Best Doctors, Sara's physicians were able to redefine the diagnosis and treat Sara with steroids, completely avoiding a high-risk, unnecessary surgery and its potential complications. Less than one week after starting her treatment, Sara recovered her vision.

*(Continued Over)*

Issued by



# Real Life Story

Sara's insurance policy entitled her to receive a crucial review of her diagnosis with world-class leaders in the field of her specific problem through Best Doctors. This fundamental Best Doctors benefit is offered for both covered and non-covered conditions, giving insureds and their families indispensable peace of mind.

Now Sara's eyes will forever be opened to the potentially life-saving impact of receiving an expert second medical opinion through her insurance policy. This security has made *CriticalADVANTAGE™* the insurance policy of choice for more and more Canadian families.

## **CriticalADVANTAGE**

Now you can affordably protect yourself and your family with Canada's first affordable out-of-country medical expense insurance with:

- access to top quality medical advice and referrals to first-rate doctors and treatment centres around the world through Best Doctors;
- up to \$1,000,000 (Canadian funds) in affordable out-of-country medical expense coverage, plus up to \$10,000 (Canadian funds) in travel and accommodation expense coverage for the insured and a companion; and
- a simple product that's easy to apply for.

## **Best Doctors**

Best Doctors is a service that allows you to access leading specialists for you and your family the same way doctors find them for themselves and their own families. By continuously surveying and ranking doctors around the world, Best Doctors database of experts can give you a professional second opinion of the accuracy and timeliness of diagnoses, tests and procedures. Best Doctors is located in Boston, Massachusetts, USA and provides rapid access to excellent medical knowledge to over 10 million people in 30 countries.

## **Transamerica Life Canada**

Transamerica Life Canada has provided Canadians with peace of mind through innovative financial solutions since 1927. Supported by a national network of 12,000 insurance advisors representing over 750,000 policyholders, Transamerica is the first Canadian insurer to offer up to \$1 million (Canadian funds) in affordable out-of-country medical expense coverage to clients who are diagnosed with a covered medical condition.



Member of the **AEGON** Group

For more information, please visit [www.transamerica.ca](http://www.transamerica.ca)

<sup>1</sup> Not the patient's real name or photograph.

<sup>2</sup> Sara was insured in Europe with a policy similar to *CriticalADVANTAGE*.

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