

Dr. LaCava's Style of Pediatric Practice

Dr. LaCava is a board certified pediatrician who completed his pediatric residency requirements in 1975. One of those years was spent in an extensive Child Neurology Fellowship where Dr. LaCava studied the science and practice of complex problems in brain disorders, peripheral nerve diseases, muscular problems, and metabolic diseases, as well as problems with hyperactivity, learning disabilities, behavior and moods.

In the 31 years since Dr. LaCava finished his formal training he has treated thousands of children exhibiting one or more of these disorders. In the process of working with these conditions, and after a 2 year stint as Chief of Emergency Pediatrics at a local Pediatric referral center, Dr. LaCava has concluded that the active primary prevention of these disorders may be more effective and satisfying than dealing with the symptoms of the disease. For this reason Dr. LaCava has concentrated his pediatric practice on the prevention of diseases through intensive diagnostic and treatment strategies. This means that Dr. LaCava is likely to ask the question "Why did your child get sick?" when he is confronted with your acutely or chronically ill child. He will usually order several tests of blood, urine, stool, or saliva to clarify the causes of the disorder. Other more specialized testing such as BEAM CAT, MRI, SPECT, ultrasound, EKG, or x-rays, may be considered where appropriate or needed to rule out certain possibilities. Dr LaCava believes many of the common pediatric problems are often due to environmental (often allergic) triggers and consequently allergy testing is a large part of his practice in identifying possible triggers.

Dr. LaCava's experience with pharmaceutical drug therapy is that the drugs sometimes cause adverse effects, allergic reactions, and untoward results. He will therefore suggest several low-technology approaches before resorting to some of the more powerful drugs which also have the risk of powerful side effects. These approaches may include environmental changes, dietary restructuring, nutritional supplements, herbal treatments, bio-identical hormones, or a combination of homeopathic remedies. All of the above are usually safe, have a low potential to cause untoward results, and are often effective in preventing or reversing a disease. When these are ineffective or an urgent treatment need is presented, Dr. LaCava will use conventional, standard drug therapies, although in a cautious and often conservative manner.

By reading this, you can see that Dr. LaCava may not be your everyday pediatrician. A patient or family which is a fit for Dr. LaCava may be that whereby one is interested in finding the causes of recurrent or chronic condition; is open to trying low technology, traditional approaches, and home remedies before the stronger pharmaceuticals; is willing to explore different avenues to tailor a treatment program for the individual patient, or is willing to consider traditional, alternative, or progressive (but safe) approaches.

Dr. LaCava also believes that chemicals in our environment cause a number of variable or persistent symptoms. Therefore, he has not only a smoke-free office but also a scent-free office. He also urges the consumption of less chemically contaminated (organic) foods, glass-bottled water, and the avoidance of strong chemicals during home, work, play or travel activities.

Before scheduling an appointment for your child with Dr. LaCava, you may want to consider his practice style to see if it is a fit for you. If not, there are no hard feelings and we wish you well. If you feel it may be a fit, then be prepared to have pre-conceived ideas questioned, being asked to read about the causes, diagnoses and treatment of diseases, and spending extra time on becoming and staying well. Dr. LaCava's goal is to assist all his patients in achieving these goals.

REMEMBER! COME SCENT-FREE FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY AND COMFORT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS.