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To Whom It May Concern:

I have examined the CT scan dated November 20, 2006 and the MRI scan dated November 13, 2007 on baby Marcela de Jesus Galante Ferreira. I agree that they show absence of the calvarium and overlying soft tissues. Posterior fossa contents are present as well as some exposed, poorly differentiated supratentorial brain tissue. This is a classical case of anencephaly. Although most anencephalic infants die within the first week or so, a minority can live much longer, such as baby Marcela. A review of the literature on anencephaly, regarding both the diagnostic and lifespan aspects, can be found the following two articles.

Shewmon DA: Anencephaly: Selected medical aspects. Hastings Center Report 18(5):11-19, 1988.

Shewmon DA, Capron AM, Peacock WJ, Schulman BL: The use of anencephalic infants as organ sources: A critique. JAMA 261(12):1773-1781, 1989.

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

D. Alan Shewmon, MD

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