

Case Report

Spontaneous cure of “cauda equina syndrome” was experienced by Sister Bernardette Moriau

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Abstract

This case report describes a case of “spontaneous cure” experienced by Sister Bernardette Moriau, after going on a pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Lourdes. In this regard, Prof. Dr. Alessandro de Francis (current president of BCM) declares that this “cure” is “unexplained according to the current scientific knowledge”.

A search of available English medical literature revealed no previous similar case report.

Keywords : Cauda equina syndrome; “Spontaneous cure” of Bernardette Moriau, Sanctuary of Lourdes; BCM (Bureau des Constatations Médicales); CMIL (Comité Medical Internacional de Lourdes)

Methods

The main reference for the description of this case report on the “spontaneous cure” of Sister Bernardette Moriau is “Ma vie est un miracle” [1].

Case Presentation

The description of this “spontaneous cure” was made by Sister Bernardette Moriau herself in the book previously indicated: I am sixty-nine years old and since I was twenty-seven years old, I have been followed up by Dr. Christophe Fumery because I started experiencing back pain which led to the diagnosis of “cauda equine syndrome” (a type of spinal stenosis), resulting in quasi paralysis. In fact, my left foot was practically turned, and I had to use prosthesis to keep it straight. I also had four surgical operations: The first was followed by the second surgical operation, in 1968, since my back, my spine and the pelvic areas were hurt because they rested on a rigid cervical-lumbar corset. In 1973, I had the third surgical operation due to a permanent inflammation of the nerve roots, as my legs suffered chronic sciatica pain. I started taking morphine to minimize the pain. In this regard, I often went to the Anti-Pain Center, in Nantes. In 1975, I had the fourth surgical operation and a neuro-stimulator was implanted on the lumbar region, which regularly sent small electrical discharges over some areas of my legs...

In the 90s, perhaps due to the these treatments, I had a type of “remission” of my illness. Even so, I have been very cautious about my “spontaneous cure” that occurred in 2008 having been advised to keep “silence” by the Head of the religious congregation I belong to, who questioned whether this “spontaneous cure” would not be a transitory phenomenon, such as my “remission”. In fact, in 2002, my clinical situation deteriorated very quickly, having been declared invalid...

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Meanwhile, my general physician, Dr. Christophe Fumery suggested that I go to the Sanctuary of Lourdes, which happened on the 4th of July 2008, as part of pilgrimage in my diocese. In Lourdes, something happened to me that was very profound and although invisible it was very real. It is a little difficult to express because it is very personal and intimate. When Bishop Jean-Paul James blessed me with the Blessed Sacrament, I felt in my heart that the Lord Jesus visited me, as never before. Then Lord Jesus spoke to me and here is what He said to me “I see your suffering and that of your sick brothers and sisters, give me everything”. In no time, I asked for my cure... Then in the pools, I was washed of everything bad. So, with the fire of Blessed Sacrament and the water of the pools, I felt that a new life was beginning, even though I was not yet healed...

Then, after 3 days, on Thursday, 11th July 2008, I left my room at the convent when I was resting and I went with Sister Marie-Albertine to our modest chapel across the hall for worship and prayer. At exactly 5:00 p.m., we were celebrating Eucharistic communion, spiritually united with the sick of Lourdes. At precisely 5:45 p.m. (local time), we were praying during the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and suddenly I felt a relaxation in my body together with a warmth that came out of the heart and spread throughout the body. I had no idea what was going on. Other miraculous people who were healed in Lourdes have described exactly the same phenomenon of inner “heat”. It is the Self and the Being that is the origin of Love and Life. After the end of “Vespers”, I returned to my room. Then, I heard an inner voice that said to me “Take off your devices” and thinking about the Gospel in which Jesus said to the paralytics “Get up from your bed and walk!”. I took every-

thing off, that is, the vest and the devices of the legs and feet (the left foot was already in place). I interrupted the morphine and the neuro-stimulator. Then, I called Sister Marie-Albertine who asked me "What happened to you?". Almost forty years of fighting the disease and in a few minutes I stopped being sick. It is incredible!

1 – English translation is my responsibility.

Discussion and Conclusion

This section discusses the main medical procedures performed by BCM (Bureau des Constatations Médicales) and CMIL (Comité Médical International de Lourdes) regarding the case of "spontaneous cure" of Sister Moriau. In the first stage, the BCM verified through the seven criteria defined by Cardinal Prospero Lambertini [2] if Sister Bernardette Moriau had poor prognosis regarding her disease, designated as "cauda equine syndrome", and if she was cured in a spontaneous and complete way (without convalescence). In this regard, I have to mention that a dossier on the reports of Sister Bernardette Moriau were written by Dr. Christophe Fumery (generalist), Dr. Christophe Alliaume (reumatologist) and Dr. Frank Becigneul (painkillers) [3]. In these reports, Dr. Fumery, Dr. Alliaume and Dr. Allary testified that after the pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Lourdes, she experienced an exceptional recovery for which they have no medical explanation.

In the second stage, the preliminary clinical procedures were deepened by CMIL, which is composed of 27 international professors of medicine. They appointed specialists in the medical area of the disease suffered by Sister Moriau, namely, Dr. Claude Kenesi and Dr. Claude Labrousse. Both of them studied in depth the dossier referred to earlier. Thus, this report was complemented by more medical exams (follow-up, X-rays, scans, laboratory data, etc) requested by CMIL in order to fully evaluate the health of Sister Bernardette Moriau. . These procedures were deepened by other specialists, such psychiatrists, including Dr. Marie-Christine Mouren and Dr. Jean-Philippe Boulenger, as well as, a neurologist, Dr. Jean Pouget, who requested an "electromyogram" to complement the previous data examinations. After several exams have been validated by experts, CMIL decided to vote the "spontaneous cure" that occurred with Sister Bernardette Moriau - in this case, 26 in favor and 1 against – which led Prof. Dr. Alessandro de Franciscis (the first non-French physician president of BCM) to write a "Clinical Report" validating this "spontaneous cure" as "unexplained from the current medical knowledge", in 2018. In fact, Sister Bernardette Moriau was cured from "cauda equine syndrome", although she did not undergo any specific medical treatment after been declared invalid by all physicians. Thus, if the "spontaneous cure" is unexplained from a clinical point of view, the case report is closed.

In this regard, some studies have been performed to find innovative explanations different from the religious and medical perspectives. Thus, the study of the intersection of quantum non-locality, transpersonal psychology and Indian philosophies has suggested some "mechanisms" for the occurrence of this "spontaneous cure", namely, the quantum non-local intricacy between the patient and the Divine, as well as, the positive mind-body relationship of the patient [4].

On the other hand, Prof. Dr. Alessandro de Franciscis (the current president of BCM) said that since 1883, around 7400 cases of alleged cures have been reported to BCM. However, there

are only 70 cases of "spontaneous cures" validated by BCM and CMIL at different times and by different medical procedures, particularly related with neurological and oncological diseases [5] and referred to in Annex 1.

After these procedures, the ecclesiastic investigation conducted another kind of evaluation in order to verify if the "spontaneous cure" of Sister Bernardette Moriau was due to Divine intervention, so that the occurrence would be declared as a "miracle". This was performed by a Bishop of the Catholic Church, Mons. Benoit-Gonin, on 11th February, 2018 [6].

I have to note the interpretation of this kind of "spontaneous cure" by Indian philosophies as the "awakening of kundalini with pranayama exercises" leading to the occurrence of transpersonal experiences in an "instantaneous time", and thus complement the previous perspective described by the quantum non-locality [7].

Conflict of Interest

None

Acknowledgments

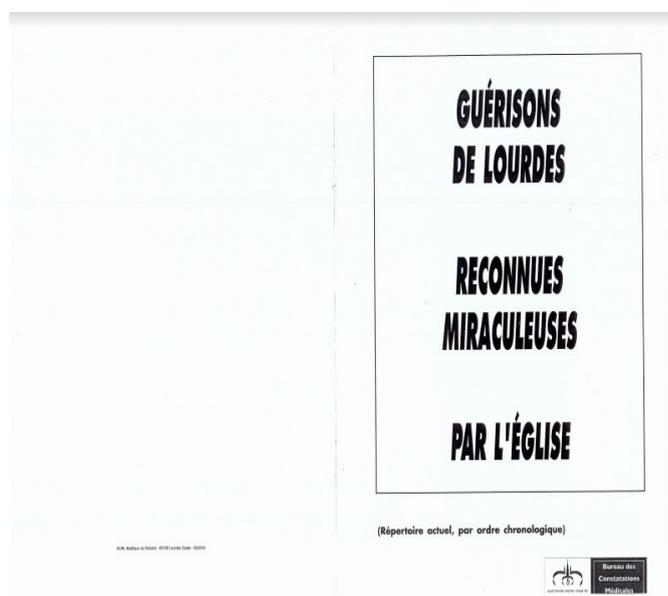
The author thanks Prof. Dr. Alessandro de Franciscis (current president of BCM) for clarifying the case of the "spontaneous cure" experienced by Sister Bernardette Moriau and sending Annex 1.

The author also thanks Sophie Starkman, from Jean-Claude Lattès publisher, for authorizing the citation of some excerpts of the book entitled "Ma vie est un miracle", mentioned to in the references of this case report.

The author also thanks Jenny Tillé-Martinez, from diocese of Beauvais, for authorizing the citation of some excerpts of the video entitled "Souer Bernardette, déclarée ce jour 70è miraculée de Lourdes!", accessed through the website :<https://oise.catholique.fr/eveque-et-ses-collaborateurs/notre-eveque-et-ses-conseillers/soeur-bernadette-declaree-ce-jour-miraculee-de-lourdes> that complements the book mentioned above.

Annex Description:

Annex 1 – The 70 cases of "spontaneous cures" occurred in the Sanctuary of Lourdes



RÉPERTOIRE		NOM ET DOMICILE	ÂGE ET DATE DE LA GUÉRISON
Actuel	Ancien		
1	3	Mme LATAPIE Catherine, dite CHOUAT, de LOUBAJAC (France).	38 ans environ au 01-3-1858.
2	1	M. BOURIETTE Louis, de LOURDES (France).	54 ans en mars 1858.
3	2	Mme CAZENAVE Blaisette, (née SOUPÈNE), de LOURDES (France).	50 ans environ en mars 1858.
4	5	M. BUSQUET Henri, de NAY (France).	15 ans environ au 28-4-1858.
5	4	M. BOUHORT Justin, de LOURDES (France).	2 ans au 06-7-1858.
6	6	Mme RIZAN Madeleine, de NAY (France).	58 ans environ au 17-10-1858.
7	7	Mme MOREAU Marie, de TARTAS (France).	17 ans environ au 09-11-1858.
8	24	M. DE RUDDER Pierre, de JABBEKE (Belgique).	52 ans au 07-4-1875.
9	14	Mlle DEHANT Joachime, de GESVES (Belgique).	29 ans au 13-9-1878.
10	37	Mlle SEISSON Elisa, de ROGNONAS (France).	27 ans au 29-8-1882.
11	27	Sœur EUGENIA, (Marie MABILLE), de BERNAY (France).	28 ans au 21-8-1883.
12	36	Sœur Julienne, (Aline BRUYÈRE), de LA ROQUE (France).	25 ans au 01-9-1889.
13	28	Sœur JOSÉPHINE-MARIE, (Anne JOURDAIN), de GOINCOURT (France).	36 ans au 21-8-1890.
14	33	Mlle CHAGNON Amélie, (Religieuse du Sacré-Cœur au 25-9-1894), de POITIERS (France).	17 ans au 21-8-1891.
15	17	Mlle TROUVÉ Clémentine, (Sœur AGNÈS-MARIE), de ROUILLÉ (France).	14 ans au 21-8-1891.
16	18	Mlle LEBRANCHU Marie, (Mme WUIPLIER), de PARIS (France).	35 ans au 20-8-1892.
17	19	Mlle LEMARCHAND Marie, (Mme AÜTHIER), de CAEN (France).	18 ans au 21-8-1892.

NATURE DE LA MALADIE	Diocèse et date de Reconnaissance
Paralysie de type cubital, par élongation traumatique du plexus brachial, depuis 18 mois.	
Traumatisme de l'œil droit datant de 20 ans, avec amaurose depuis 2 ans.	
Chémosis ou ophtalmie chronique, avec ectropion depuis 3 ans.	Tarbes, Mandement de Monseigneur Laurence du 18-1-1862
Adénite fistulisée (sans doute tuberculeuse) de la base de cou, depuis 15 mois.	
Hypothrepsie chronique post infectieuse, avec retard du développement moteur. Diagnostic d'alors : « consommation ».	
Hémiplégie gauche depuis 24 ans.	
Diminution très importante de la vue, avec lésions inflammatoires, surtout de l'œil droit, évoluant depuis 10 mois.	
Fracture ouverte de la jambe gauche, avec pseudarthrose.	Bruges (Belgique) 25-7-1908.
Ulçère de la jambe droite avec gangrène très étendue.	Namur (Belgique) 25-4-1908.
Hypertrophie du cœur, œdèmes membres inférieurs.	Aix-en-Provence 2-7-1912.
Abcs du petit bassin avec fistules vésicale et colique. Phlébite bilatérale.	Evreux 30-8-1908.
Tuberculose pulmonaire cavitaires.	Tulle 7-3-1912.
Tuberculose pulmonaire.	Beauvais 10-10-1908.
Ostéo-arthrites tuberculeuses genou et pied (2 ^{ème} métatarsien).	Tournai (Belgique) 8-9-1910.
Ostéo-périostite du pied droit fistulée.	Paris 6-6-1908.
Tuberculose pulmonaire (expectoration avec Bacilles de Koch).	Paris 6-6-1908.
Tuberculose pulmonaire avec ulcères visage et jambe.	Paris 6-6-1908.

RÉPERTOIRE		NOM ET DOMICILE	ÂGE ET DATE DE LA GUÉRISON
Actuel	Ancien		
18	9	Mlle LESAGE Elise, de BUCQUOY (France).	18 ans au 21-8-1892.
19	25	Sœur MARIE de la PRÉSENTATION, (Sylvie DELPORTE) de LILLE (France).	46 ans au 29-8-1892.
20	12	Abbé CIRETTE, de BEAUMONTEL (France).	46 ans au 31-8-1893.
21	15	Mlle HUPRELLE Aurélie, de ST-MARTIN-LE-NEUD (France).	26 ans au 21-8-1895.
22	20	Mlle BRACHMANN Esther, de PARIS (France).	15 ans au 21-8-1896.
23	8	Mlle TULASNE Jeanne, de TOURS (France).	20 ans au 8-9-1897.
24	29	Mlle MALOT Clémentine, de GAUDECHART (France).	25 ans au 21-8-1898.
25	21	Mme FRANÇOIS Rose, (née LABREUVOIES) de PARIS (France).	36 ans au 20-8-1899.
26	22	Révérénd Père SALVATOR, de ROUELLE (France).	38 ans au 25-6-1900.
27	10	Sœur MAXIMILIEN, (Religieuse de l'Espérance) de MARSEILLE (France).	43 ans au 20-5-1901.
28	26	Mlle SAVOYE Marie, de CATEAU-CAMBRESIS (France).	24 ans au 20-9-1901.
29	23	Mme BÉZENAC Johanna, (née DUBOS) de SAINT-LAURENT-DES-BÂTONS (France).	28 ans au 08-8-1904.
30	16	Sœur SAINT-HILAIRE, (Lucie JUPIN) de PEYRELEAU (France).	39 ans au 20-8-1904.
31	13	Sœur SAINTE-BÉATRIX, (Rosalie VILDIR) d'EVREUX (France).	42 ans au 31-8-1904.
32	11	Mlle NOBLET Marie-Thérèse, d'AVENAY (France).	15 ans au 31-8-1905.
33	30	Mlle DOUVILLE-de-FRANSSU Cécile, de TOURNAY (France).	19 ans au 21-9-1905.
34	34	Mlle MOULIN Antonia, de VIENNE (France).	30 ans au 10-8-1907.

NATURE DE LA MALADIE	Diocèse et date de Reconnaissance
Ostéo-arthrite tuberculeuse du genou.	Arras 4-2-1908.
Gastro-entérite chronique tuberculeuse.	Cambrai 15-8-1908.
Sclérose spinale antéro-latérale.	Evreux 11-2-1907.
Phtisie pulmonaire aiguë.	Beauvais 1-5-1908.
Péritonite tuberculeuse.	Paris 6-6-1908.
Mal de Pott lombaire, avec pied bot névropathique.	Tours 27-10-1907.
Tuberculose pulmonaire hémoptoïque.	Beauvais 1-11-1908.
Phlegmon fistulisé du bras droit avec énorme œdème.	Paris 6-6-1908.
Péritonite tuberculeuse.	Rennes 1-7-1908.
Kyste hydatique du foie, phlébite du membre inférieur gauche.	Marseille 5-2-1908.
Mitralite rhumatismale décompensée.	Cambrai 15-8-1908.
Cachexie de cause inconnue, impéigo des paupières et du front.	Périgueux 2-7-1908.
Tumeur abdominale.	Rodez 10-5-1908.
Laryngo-bronchite, probablement tuberculeuse.	Evreux 25-3-1908.
Spondylite dorso-lombaire.	Reims 11-2-1908.
Péritonite tuberculeuse.	Versailles 8-12-1909.
Fistule sur ostéite du fémur droit, avec arthrite du genou.	Grenoble 6-11-1910.

RÉPERTOIRE		NOM ET DOMICILE	ÂGE ET DATE DE LA GUÉRISON
Actuel	Ancien		
35	35	Mlle BOREL Marie, de MENDE (France).	27 ans au 21/22-8-1907.
36	39	Mlle HAUDEBOURG Virginie, de LONS-LE-SAULNIER (France).	22 ans au 17-5-1908.
37	31	Mme BIRÉ Marie (née LUCAS), de STE-GEMME-LA-PLAINE (France).	41 ans au 05-8-1908.
38	32	Mlle ALLOPE Aimée, de VERN (France).	37 ans au 28-5-1909.
39	40	Mlle ORION Juliette, de ST-HILAIRE-DE-VOUST (France).	24 ans au 22-7-1910.
40	38	Mme FABRE Marie, de MONTREDON (France).	32 ans au 26-9-1911.
41	54	Mlle BRESSOLLES Henriette, de NICE (France).	28 ans environ au 03-7-1924.
42	55	Mlle BROSSE Lydia, de ST-RAPHAËL (France).	41 ans au 11-10-1930.
43	41	Sœur MARIE-MARGUERITE, (Françoise CAPITAIN) de RENNES (France).	64 ans au 22-1-1937.
44	46	Mlle JAMAIN Louise, (Mme MAÏTRE) de PARIS (France).	22 ans au 01-4-1937.
45	44	M. PASCAL Francis, de BEAUCAIRE (France).	3 ans 10 mois au 31-8-1938.
46	42	Mlle CLAUZEL Gabrielle, d'ORAN (Algérie).	49 ans au 15-8-1943.
47	56	Mlle FOURNIER Yvonne, de LIMOGES (France).	22 ans au 19-8-1945.
48	43	Mme MARTIN Rose, (née PERONA) de NICE (France).	46 ans au 03-7-1947.
49	48	Mme GESTAS Jeanne, (née PELIN) de BÈGLES (France).	50 ans au 22-8-1947.
50	47	Mlle CANIN Marie-Thérèse, de MARSEILLE (France).	37 ans au 09-10-1947.
51	57	Mlle CARINI Maddalena, de SAN REMO (Italie).	31 ans au 15-8-1948.

NATURE DE LA MALADIE	Diocèse et date de Reconnaissance
Six fistules pyo-stercorales, régions lombaire et abdominale.	Mende 4-6-1911
Cystite tuberculeuse, néphrite.	Saint-Claude 25-11-1912.
Cécité d'origine cérébrale, atrophie papillaire bilatérale.	Luçon 30-7-1910.
Nombreux abcès tuberculeux, dont 4 fistulisés, de la paroi abdominale antérieure.	Angers 5-8-1910.
Tuberculose pulmonaire et laryngée, mastoïdite gauche supprimée.	Luçon 18-10-1913.
Entérite muco-membraneuse, prolapsus utérin.	Cahors 8-9-1912.
Mal de Pott, paraplégie.	Nice 4-6-1957.
Fistules tuberculeuses multiples, avec vastes décollements (région fessière gauche).	Coutances 5-8-1958.
Abcs du rein gauche avec œdème phlycténulaire et « crises cardiaques ».	Rennes 20-5-1946.
Tuberculose pulmonaire, intestinale, péritonéale.	Paris 14-12-1951.
Cécité, paralysie des membres inférieurs.	Aix-en-Provence 31-5-1949.
Spondylose rhumatismale.	Oran (Algérie) 18-3-1948.
Syndrome extenso-progressif post-traumatique du membre supérieur gauche (Syndrome de LERICHE).	Paris 14-11-1959.
Cancer du col utérin (épithélioma glandulaire cylindrique).	Nice 17-3-1958.
Troubles dyspeptiques avec accidents occlusifs post-opératoires.	Bordeaux 13-7-1952.
Mal de Pott dorso-lombaire et péritonite tuberculeuse fistulisée.	Marseille 6-6-1952.
Tuberculose péritonéale, pleuro-pulmonaire et osseuse, avec coronarite.	Milan 2-6-1960.

RÉPERTOIRE		NOM ET DOMICILE	ÂGE ET DATE DE LA GUÉRISON	NATURE DE LA MALADIE	Diocèse et date de Reconnaissance
Actuel	Ancien				
52	45	Mlle FRÉTEL Jeanne, de RENNES (France).	34 ans au 8-10-1948.	Péritonite tuberculeuse.	Rennes 20-11-1950.
53	59	Mlle ANGELE Théa, (Sœur MARIE-MERCÉDÈS) de TETTANANG (Allemagne).	29 ans au 20-5-1950.	Sclérose en plaques, depuis six ans.	Tarbes-Lourdes 28-6-1961.
54	51	M. GANORA Evasio, de CASALE (Italie).	37 ans au 2-6-1950.	Maladie de Hodgkin.	Casale (Italie) 31-5-1955.
55	50	Mlle FULDA Edeltaud, (Mme HAIDINGER) de VIENNE (Autriche).	34 ans au 12-8-1950.	Maladie d'Addison.	Vienne (Autriche) 18-5-1955.
56	49	M. PELLEGRIN Paul de TOULON (France).	52 ans au 3-10-1950.	Fistule post-opératoire d'un abcès du foie.	Fréjus-Toulon 8-12-1953.
57	58	Frère SCHWAGER Léo de FRIBOURG (Suisse).	28 ans au 30-4-1952.	Sclérose en plaques depuis cinq ans.	Genève-Lausanne-Fribou (Suisse) 18-12-1960.
58	52	Mme COUTEAULT Alice, (née GOURDON), de BOUILLE-LORETZ (France).	34 ans au 15-5-1952.	Sclérose en plaques depuis trois ans.	Poitiers 16-7-1956.
59	53	Mlle BIGOT Marie, de LA RICHARDAIS (France).	31 ans au 08-10-1953. 32 ans au 10-10-1954.	Arachnoïdite de la fosse postérieure (cécité, surdité, hémiplégié).	Rennes 15-8-1956.
60	60	Mme NOUVEL Ginette, (née FABRE) de CARMAUX (France).	26 ans au 21-9-1954.	Maladie de Budd-Chiari (Thrombose des veines sus-hépatiques).	Albi 31-5-1963.
61	62	Mlle ALOI Elisa, (Mme VARACALLI), de PATTI (Italie).	27 ans au 5-6-1958.	Tuberculose ostéo-articulaire et fistules à localisations multiples du membre inférieur droit.	Messine (Italie) 26-5-1965.
62	61	Mlle TAMBURINI Juliette, de MARSEILLE (France).	22 ans au 17-7-1959.	Ostéo-périostite fémorale fistulisée, épistaxis datant de dix ans.	Marseille 26-5-1965.
63	-	M. MICHELI Vittorio, de SCURELLE (Italie).	23 ans au 1-6-1963.	Sarcome de la hanche gauche.	Trento (Italie) 26-5-1976.
64	-	M. PERRIN Serge, du LION D'ANGERS (France).	41 ans au 1-5-1970.	Hémiplégié droite itérative, avec lésions oculaires, par troubles circulatoires carotidiens bilatéraux.	Angers 17-6-1978.
65	-	Mlle CIROLI Delizia, (Mme COSTA), de PATERNO (Italie).	12 ans au 24-12-1976.	Sarcome d'Ewing du genou droit.	Catania (Italie) 28-6-1989.
66	-	M. BÉLY Jean-Pierre, de LA COURONNE (France).	51 ans au 9-10-1987.	Sclérose en plaques évolutive depuis 15 ans.	Angoulême 9-2-1999.
67	-	Mlle SANTANIELLO Anna, de SALERNE (Italie).	41 ans au 19-8-1952.	Décompensation cardiaque par maladie mitrale suite à un rhumatisme articulaire aigu.	Salerno (Italie) 21-9-2005.
68	-	Sœur Luigina TRAVERSO, de NOVI LIGURE (Piémont) Italie.	31 ans au 23-07-1965.	Lombosciatique paralysante sur méningocœle.	Casale-Monferrato (Italie) 11-10-2012.
69	-	Mme Danila CASTELLI, (Épouse SADIGH ERSHADI), de BEREGUARDO (Italie).	43 ans au 04-05-1989.	Crises d'hypertension artérielle graves et récurrentes, mettant sa vie en danger.	Pavia (Italie) 20-06-2013.
70	-	Sœur MORIAU Bernadette de BRESLES (France)	69 ans au 11-07-2008	Syndrome de la queue de cheval (Atteinte pluriradiculaire des racines lombaires et sacrées)	Beauvais 11-02-2018

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