

# will save Seb's life

## THE SURGEONS

JEFFREY Rosenfeld, 48, is one of Australia's most distinguished neurosurgeons and a world leader in the procedure to be performed on Sebastian Selo.

Married with three children, he is professor and director of the department of neurosurgery at the Alfred Hospital and Monash University.

He is also professor of neurosurgery at the University of Papua New Guinea, a position reflecting his interest in providing assistance to developing countries.

Professor Rosenfeld, who started his medical career in Melbourne, has authored more than 100 publications.

Epileptologist Dr Simon Harvey, 39, has built an impressive career in pediatric medicine since graduating with honours from Monash University in 1984.

Since 1991, Dr Harvey has been a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (in pediatric neurology) and in 1994, he received a doctorate.

He is director of the Children's Epilepsy Program at the Royal Children's Hospital and a specialist with the Comprehensive Epilepsy Program, Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre.

Married with one child, Dr Harvey has helped to write nine medical books and has co-authored more than 30 articles.



Calm: Jeffrey Rosenfeld says stress is not a problem.



Cheeky: Sebastian Selo.



All in a day's work: Simon Harvey.

## THE BOY

THE rare brain tumour that has made Sebastian Selo's life a misery affects fewer than one child in a million.

The tumour, called a hypothalamic hamartoma, is deep in the brain of the nine-year-old British boy and triggers debilitating seizures. The frequency of the seizures has eased to about two attacks a day of up to 30 minutes.

But there was a time when the boy's body was tormented by up to 100 seizures a day.

Two years ago, Sebastian almost died during a bout of seizures that lasted more than six hours.

The tumour, which was diagnosed when he was nine months old, has affected his intellectual development.

Sebastian has a twin sister, Monica.

He has a mental age of about three, his speech is limited to a few words and he has a limp. Surgery in Britain five years ago was unsuccessful and caused further complications, including a stroke.

Sebastian's difficult life has not affected his spirit. His father, Louis, describes him as being cheeky and mischievous.

Both parents accept Sebastian will never have an independent life, but they hope the delicate operation at the Royal Children's Hospital will release him from the torment of the seizures.

## HOW THE DAY WILL GO

**11.30 am:** Sebastian is given medication to help him relax.

**12.30 pm:** Leaves the ward.

**12.45 pm:** Another MRI (brain scan), which is used during the operation.

**1.30 pm:** Taken to the operating theatre. The anaesthetist puts Sebastian to sleep.

**1.45pm-2.30 pm:** Operating theatre prepared with equipment. Surgeon and anaesthetist prepare for surgery.

**2.30 pm:** First incision made by the

surgeon, Professor Jeffrey Rosenfeld.

**3.30 pm:** After an hour, Professor Rosenfeld finally has access to the tumour.

**3.40pm:** Removal of the tumour begins.

**5.30pm:** Tumour removed, and Sebastian is taken to recovery.

**6.30pm:** Anna and Louis Selo visit their son.

**8pm:** Sebastian returns to the ward.

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