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2 SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
3 COUNTY OF QUEENS

4 -----x

5 ,
6 Plaintiff,

7
8 - against -

9 , P.C., , D.P.M., , D.P.M.,
10 ,
11 P.C. and ,

12 Defendants.

13 ----- x

14 December 8, 2006
15 10:50 a.m.

16
17 CONTINUED DEPOSITION of , M.D., one
18 of the Defendants herein, taken by the Plaintiff,
19 pursuant to Order, held at the offices of
20 , LLP, 90 Merrick Avenue, East Meadow, New
21 York, before Karin Genalo, CSR, a Notary Public of
22 the State of New York.

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2 LAW OFFICES OF GERALD M. OGINSKI, LLC
3 150 Great Neck Road
4 Great Neck, New York 11021

5 Attorneys for Plaintiff
6 BY: GERALD OGINSKI, ESQ.

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9
10 East Meadow, New York 11554
11 Attorneys for Defendant
12 , D.P.M.

13 BY: , ESQ.

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17 East Meadow, New York 11554-1555
18 Attorneys for Defendant

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20 BY: , ESQ.

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4 Mineola, New York 11501
5 Attorneys for Defendant
6 , D.P.M.

7 BY: , ESQ.

8
9 NOT PRESENT:
10 , ESQS.

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12 Melville, New York 11747
13 Attorneys for Defendant
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3 , M.D., called as a witness,
4 having been first duly sworn, was examined and
5 testified as follows:
6 EXAMINATION BY MR. OGINSKI:

7 Q. Please state your name for
8 the record.

9 A. .
10 MS. : Can you mark
11 the doctor's medical chart, please?
12 (The above-referred-to
13 document was marked as Plaintiff's
14 Exhibit Number 2 for identification
15 as of this date.)

16 MR. OGINSKI: Good morning,
17 Doctor.

18 THE WITNESS: Hi, how are
19 you?

20 Q. Could you please take a look
21 at the X-rays that you have contained in
22 your original chart which has been marked
23 as Exhibit 2, please, and if you can just
24 pull out all those X-rays.

25 MS. : Are you

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2 going to want him to interpret them
3 because we can get a shadow box?

4 MR. OGINSKI: No, I want him
5 to identify them.

6 Q. Can you go through with me,
7 Doctor, and tell me what X-rays you have
8 in front of you and the dates, please?

9 A. Sure.
10 Q. And which feet they
11 represent.
12 A. Okay. In successive order
13 or just arbitrarily?
14 Q. Whichever ones you have is
15 fine.
16 A. Okay.
17 MS. : Off the
18 record.
19 (A discussion was held off
20 the record.)
21 A. Okay. This is January 24 of
22 '03, this set of X-rays.
23 And these are --
24 Q. Hold on.
25 Can you identify how many

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1 140
2 X-rays you have for January 24th?
3 A. Five.
4 Q. And what are those views or
5 films that you have in front of you?
6 A. Okay. First view, we have a
7 left foot, this would be considered the
8 medial oblique view.
9 We have a right also medial
10 oblique.
11 Q. When you say right, you mean
12 right foot?
13 A. Right foot, yes.
14 This is a right foot
15 anterior posterior or DP view.
16 Left foot, same, anterior
17 posterior DP view.
18 And we have lateral views,
19 lateral views left foot and lateral views
20 right.
21 MS. : On one film,
22 from one sheet?
23 THE WITNESS: Yes.
24 Q. And on each of those films,
25 Doctor, may I just see --

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1 141
2 A. Sure.
3 Q. There is one film which is,
4 if you could take a look at it, there is
5 no markings at all on it, either dates,
6 names or anything else, do you see any
7 identifying features on that particular
8 film?
9 A. With the actual bone itself,
10 you mean?
11 Q. With the patient's name.
12 A. Oh, the name.
13 No, there isn't. However,

14 when a patient first comes in there are a
15 certain set of views that we always take,
16 two laterals, one on each foot, one
17 medial oblique on the right and one
18 medial oblique on the left. And the same
19 with AP, AP, DP views on right and left.
20 So there is always a total of six views
21 on every patient.

22 Q. Other than your customary
23 practice of taking those views, is there
24 any other identifying feature on this
25 particular film that you're holding in

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2 front of you which would specifically
3 identify this film as being for
4 ?

5 A. In terms of labeling, no.

6 Q. Is there any labeling to
7 indicate the date that that particular
8 X-ray was taken or the patient's name for
9 that particular film?

10 MS. : Can we
11 identify which film exactly we're
12 talking about?

13 That's the left foot.

14 Which one is that?

15 THE WITNESS: This is for --

16 No, neither one of the same
17 view are indicated right or left.

18 They're medial oblique views, but it
19 does not indicate right or left.

20 Q. And one of those has a
21 sticker on that identifying

22 ?

23 A. Right, and the date.

24 Q. And the other film that
25 you're looking at has no identifying

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2 features?

3 A. Right.

4 MS. : Which foot
5 does not have identifying features?
6 Which foot doesn't have a label on
7 the film?

8 THE WITNESS: This here is
9 the left. (Indicating.)

10 MS. : Okay.

11 THE WITNESS: This is the
12 right. (Indicating.)

13 MS. : The right
14 has a label, the left does not.

15 Okay, got it.

16 THE WITNESS: Both taken on
17 the same day.

18 Q. And that's the AP view?

19 A. No; this is the medial
20 oblique.

21 Q. Can you turn to the next
22 group of X-rays that you have?

23 A. Sure.
24 , left foot.

25 Q. What date, Doctor?

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2 A. November 26 of '03, two
3 views.

4 Q. Left foot, right foot?

5 A. Both left.

6 And the view is an ankle
7 mortise view, and an AP view of the left
8 ankle.

9 Q. Do you have any other X-rays
10 in your chart relating to ?

11 A. That's it.

12 Q. Am I correct that both sets
13 of X-rays, the ones on January 24th of
14 2003 and the November 26, 2003 X-rays,
15 were taken in your office?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you had, I think,
18 previously told me that you had
19 personally reviewed those X-rays and
20 evaluated them?

21 A. Yes, I did.

22 Q. Okay.

23 Doctor, let's talk about the
24 tendon lengthening procedure.

25 A. Sure.

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2 Q. At any time after you
3 recommended the procedure to , did
4 you ever suggest to her that the tendon
5 lengthening procedure may not work to
6 cure or alleviate her problems that she
7 was experiencing?

8 A. I don't recall any specific
9 comment to that effect. I'm sure I did
10 suggest to her that the lengthening
11 procedure would alleviate to some degree,
12 but I don't recall any specific comment
13 made.

14 Q. What were the risks or the
15 chances that after performing this type
16 of procedure she would not achieve any
17 lessening or reduction of the complaints
18 that she was experiencing?

19 A. Just repeat the question
20 again.

21 Q. Other than the tendon
22 lengthening procedure, did you recommend
23 any other surgical alternative to ?

24 A. No.
25 Q. Were there any other

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2 surgical alternatives in your opinion
3 that were available to her to treat her
4 ongoing condition and her complaint?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Did you suggest to
7 that one option was not to do any surgery
8 and simply to continue on with
9 conservative care and treatment?

10 A. No, that suggestion was not
11 made.

12 Q. In the tendon lengthening
13 procedures that you had done in your
14 career, had you experienced success in
15 terms of having the patients' problems
16 alleviated with that type of procedure?

17 MS. : Objection to
18 form.

19 Q. In the past, Doctor, when
20 you had performed tendon lengthening
21 procedures, and understanding that there
22 were different patients maybe for
23 different reasons why you did the
24 procedures, had you experienced success
25 in the procedures you had performed?

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2 MS. : Objection.

3 Q. When you had talked to
4 about doing the tendon lengthening
5 procedure, did you explain to her that
6 there was the possibility that even if
7 the procedure is done she would not
8 achieve the desired result and not
9 achieve her reduction of pain and
10 symptoms?

11 MS. : May I have
12 that question again?

13 (The requested portion was
14 read by the reporter.)

15 MS. : Fine. That
16 there was a possibility.

17 Go ahead.

18 A. Yes, I did discuss with her
19 specifically risks, possible
20 complications, desired objectives may or
21 may not be obtained, there was no surety.

22 Q. Now, I understand you're
23 talking generally, do you have a specific
24 memory of what it was that you told her?

25 A. I don't have a specific

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2 memory.

3 Q. That's all right.
4 MS. : Let him
5 finish.
6 Were you done with your
7 answer?
8 A. I was going to say that, but
9 a general comment that I make to all of
10 my patients.
11 Q. No, that's okay, we went
12 through the general stuff before.
13 When you talked to
14 about the procedure, were her parents
15 present?
16 A. I really don't recall.
17 Q. Did you tell that her
18 tendons were too tight and needed to be
19 stretched?
20 A. Elongated or lengthened.
21 Q. Did you ever tell or
22 her parents that her bones in part of her
23 ankle were too large causing the tendons
24 to become irritated?
25 A. Yes, I did. I did

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1 mention --
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3 Your question was to her
4 parents or to her?
5 Q. Either to her or her parents
6 together.
7 A. It would be to her, yes, I
8 did make mention that there was an
9 osseous component there, an enlargement
10 of the bone that was actually causing
11 friction or irritation to the tendon
12 coursing around it.
13 Q. Now, when you actually
14 performed the tendon lengthening
15 procedure, you actually cut through the
16 tendon, correct?
17 A. No.
18 Q. During the course of the
19 surgery, you make incisions into the
20 tendon, correct?
21 A. Not through and through, but
22 the tendon is incised but not entirely.
23 MS. : Your
24 previous question was cut through it.
25 MR. OGINSKI: I'm sorry.

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1 Q. And as part of any type of
2 cutting during surgery there is a risk of
3 forming adhesions afterward?
4
5 A. Sure.
6 Q. And when you form adhesions,
7 there is the risk of contractions?

8 A. Absolutely.
9 Q. And can contractions cause
10 pain or stiffening or tightness?
11 A. It can.
12 Q. And can that aggravate the
13 patient's symptoms of pain as well?
14 A. Absolutely.
15 Q. And at some point
16 post-operatively, did you notice or
17 observe that had complained of
18 continued complaints of pain unrelated to
19 incisional pain?
20 A. Not at the postoperative
21 site, no.
22 Her pain became more
23 apparent due to the irritation from the
24 bandage causing an ulceration to her
25 heal, an allergic response that I believe

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2 occurred from the cast padding, that was
3 more her complaint afterwards. No more
4 than general postoperative incisional
5 pain that everyone experiences. There
6 was nothing specific.
7 Q. Did you form any opinion
8 after the surgery that she had developed
9 some type of adhesions that was causing
10 her continued complaints?

11 MS. : Objection to
12 form, but you can answer.

13 A. I'm sure I did. I don't
14 recollect any specific comment, but I --
15 if I may make a general statement, I make
16 a, I make my patients very aware that any
17 incision is going to produce scar tissue
18 and keloid, so --

19 Q. How do you tell the patient,
20 look, we're going to treat you with this
21 procedure, but the procedure itself may
22 have certain problems and you may still
23 have the problems you came in with, how
24 do you reconcile that in terms of
25 recommending a particular procedure to

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2 the patient to alleviate their symptoms?

3 MS. : Objection to
4 form.

5 Q. When you talked to
6 about doing this type of tendon
7 lengthening procedure --

8 By the way, is there more
9 than one way to do the tendon lengthening
10 procedure?

11 A. I suppose, yes, there are.
12 They all achieve the same goal.

13 There is one particular
14 Z-plasty which I usually do quite
15 frequently.

16 Q. That's what you did in this
17 case?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Doctor, I'd like you to take
20 a look at your post-op notes, your typed
21 notes starting with July 7th, 2004.

22 MS. : Off the
23 record.

24 (A discussion was held off
25 the record.)

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2 A. That date again?

3 Q. July 7th.

4 MS. : July 7th,

5 '04.

6 Q. You write in your note,
7 Doctor, patient states that she is in
8 considerable pain and discomfort to her
9 left foot. Patient states that she is
10 not in pain at the ulceration site
11 secondary to the cast incision. Can you
12 explain to me why, in your opinion,
13 was in pain as of July 7th?

14 MS. : Do you have
15 an opinion?

16 A. I really don't, no more than
17 just postoperative complications, that's
18 usually part of that.

19 Q. You continue on in your note
20 by saying that the incision is not
21 painful either. Do you identify where
22 exactly it is that is experiencing
23 the pain and discomfort to her left foot?

24 A. Usually when she was
25 standing or walking, which I really

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2 didn't sense that she was entirely
3 compliant, that's when her pain was
4 greatest.

5 Q. I'm only asking, in your
6 note do you identify where it is in her
7 foot that she experiences the pain that
8 she describes?

9 A. No, I don't.

10 Q. You continue by saying
11 patient states that she is in pain when
12 weightbearing especially on dorsiflexion
13 and weightbearing. Did you ask her
14 specifically where she was having the
15 pain?

16 A. Let me explain. When the
17 foot is dorsiflexed it's going to add

18 particular tension to the incision site,
19 whereas, otherwise there would be no
20 pain. But flexing a foot and the ankle
21 and that tension being placed on the
22 incision site and scar tissue that would
23 produce pain.

24 Q. However, you note that the
25 incision is not painful either?

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2 A. Right, ordinarily, but upon
3 dorsiflexion and weightbearing it could
4 become painful.

5 Q. Did you explain to the
6 basis or the reason why she would still
7 be having pain as of July 7th, 2004?

8 A. Again, I'm sure I did, but
9 my note may not indicate that.

10 Q. Now, just to be clear, the
11 surgery that you performed was done on
12 May 14, 2004?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. This is now almost two
15 months postoperatively, in your opinion,
16 Doctor, is it customary or normal for a
17 patient to have this type of pain almost
18 two months postoperatively?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Why?

21 A. For a myriad of reasons.

22 Again, this is the foot and
23 you're standing on it. It is not a limb
24 that is, such as an arm or a hand. The
25 foot maintains quite a bit of weight and

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2 she is, if I recall, a big girl, fairly
3 tall, so this would indicate or
4 exacerbate any kind of postoperative pain
5 or complications.

6 Q. Did you recommend that she
7 limit her weightbearing?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. In what regard?

10 A. What?

11 Q. How?

12 MS. : At what
13 point in time?

14 MR. OGINSKI: As of
15 July 7th.

16 A. Well, my recommendations to
17 limit weightbearing is immediately
18 post-op.

19 Q. At this point, other than
20 recommending physical therapy and
21 ultrasound, what other treatment did you
22 recommend in order to reduce the pain

23 that she was experiencing, as well as the
24 medication that you described in this
25 note?

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2 A. Yes. I don't recall if
3 there was any other recommendation.

4 Q. Did you have an opinion at
5 that time as to how long it would take
6 her to reduce the pain that she was
7 experiencing?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Did you form an opinion as
10 to whether the pain she was experiencing
11 was related to adhesions as a result of
12 the surgery?

13 A. When you say form an opinion
14 and indicate that to her?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. I had an opinion, yes, which
17 is why I had initiated the ultrasound and
18 referred her to physical therapy, which
19 would help alleviate that scar tissue.

20 Q. When you would send her to
21 physical therapy, was it your intention
22 that she have ultrasound therapy at the
23 physical therapy place?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What was the purpose of

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2 having it both done at your office and
3 also the physical therapy place?

4 A. Well, if I recall, she
5 didn't have ultrasound at my office very
6 often. I can't really recall many
7 ultrasound visits at all.

8 I might have initiated
9 ultrasound in my office one time and then
10 thereafter in the process of getting
11 authorization from the insurance company
12 for outside physical therapy care, it
13 would commence at that point outside.
14 But many times I will initiate the first
15 treatment.

16 Q. And is it customary that
17 after a procedure such as this tendon
18 lengthening procedure, when the patient
19 first starts to bear weight on the leg,
20 that they do experience some discomfort,
21 either stretching, pain or something like
22 that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And, typically, how long
25 does it take for those types of symptoms

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2 or complaints to resolve?
3 MS. : Objection.
4 Q. If you can tell me
5 generally.
6 MS. : If you can
7 answer that generally. Every patient
8 is different, I would assume. But if
9 you can answer that in the full
10 spectrum of patients.
11 A. I believe you're asking me
12 typically when does pain usually begin to
13 resolve with most patients in this type
14 of procedure?
15 Q. Yes.
16 A. Typically, I would say about
17 three months. Not that in three months
18 pain is entirely diminished, but that is
19 usually when they begin to feel much
20 better. The adhesions begin to break up
21 and scar tissue diminishes.
22 Q. Did you prescribe any type
23 of pain medication for for what you
24 describe as considerable pain and
25 discomfort on the left foot?

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2 MS. : At what
3 point in time? 160
4 MR. OGINSKI: On July 7th.
5 A. Yes, I did.
6 Q. That was to reduce the
7 inflammation and swelling?
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. Is that specifically a pain
10 reliever or an anti-inflammatory?
11 A. Yes.
12 MS. : Yes, it is
13 what?
14 THE WITNESS: An
15 anti-inflammatory.
16 Q. And that's the Lodine?
17 A. Yes, it is.
18 Q. Separate and apart from the
19 Lodine, did you prescribe any pain relief
20 medication to her?
21 A. I don't believe I did.
22 Q. And would you have expected
23 that if you had you would have made a
24 note of that somewhere in your chart?
25 A. Yes.

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2 Q. Can you turn, please, to 161
3 your next postoperative visit, July 10th?
4 On the third line you write,
5 still experiences pain along the incision
6 site and the foot in general is swollen,

7 do you see that?
8 A. Yes, I do.
9 Q. Now, just three days earlier
10 you had indicated that there was no
11 incision pain?
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. Did you have any opinion as
14 of July 10th as to why she was now
15 experiencing incision pain?
16 A. Well, incision pain is
17 intermittent, it could be very painful at
18 one point and the next day it can be much
19 more bearable.
20 Also, these are subjective
21 complaints, so the patient may feel
22 better one day and not so great the
23 following, so --
24 Q. Now, the comment that you
25 made about the foot in general being

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1 swollen, that is something that you 162
2 observed, correct?
3
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. And even though you noted it
6 was swollen you said the swelling had
7 reduced --
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. -- I imagine from the
10 previous --
11 A. Absolutely.
12 Q. -- visit.
13 A. Yes.
14 Q. The swelling that you
15 observed, can you describe or quantify
16 for me in any fashion, other than what
17 you have in your note, as to the swelling
18 that you observed?
19 A. No more than it was
20 localized, that I can recall, did not
21 consume the whole foot.
22 She did have swelling near
23 the ulceration, which is typical of
24 ulcers, but nothing out of the ordinary.
25 Q. And did you explain to her

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1 how long that swelling would last for? 163
2
3 A. I don't recall if I did or
4 not.
5 Q. To your knowledge, after you
6 had recommended or prescribed the Lodine,
7 did she tell you that she had obtained
8 the medication and was taking it?
9 A. I don't recall.
10 Q. And, to your knowledge, was
11 the patient continuing to do her range of

12 motion exercises as you had encouraged
13 her to do in your note?

14 A. You know, again, I don't
15 recall, but most patients -- again, I'm
16 trying to keep this as specific as
17 possible, but in general most patients
18 are not very compliant.

19 Q. I'm not asking about
20 general, Doctor.

21 A. That's what I'm saying, I
22 can't recall whether she was doing it or
23 not.

24 Q. Is it normal, Doctor, for a
25 patient, after undergoing a tendon

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1 lengthening procedure to,
2 postoperatively, to have swelling in her
3 foot?
4

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5 MS. : Objection to
6 form, but if you can answer in that
7 form go ahead.

8 A. Normal, sure.

9 Healing rates differ from
10 patient to patient, activity level,
11 compliance levels, size of patient, so,
12 yes.

13 Q. Can you turn, please, to
14 your July 14 follow-up visit?

15 A. I'm sorry, the date?

16 Q. The next visit, 7/14.

17 At the end of the second
18 line it says swelling is gradually
19 diminished, patient continues to guard,
20 however, less so. What did you mean by
21 patient continues to guard?

22 A. Guarding is basically a
23 patient's -- I don't know if the word is
24 refusal to move their foot for fear of
25 ing something or causing greater

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1 complications, that sort of thing. So
2 she still was, I guess, very apprehensive
3 about certain types of range of motion
4 that I was encouraging her to do.

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5 Q. Typically, when a patient
6 guards against moving a part of their
7 limb or body, is it typically because of
8 pain that they're experiencing?
9

10 A. Not necessarily.

11 Q. In this particular case, did
12 she explain to you that she was having
13 some pain when she tried to move her foot
14 either passively or actively?

15 MS. : At what
16 point in time?

17 MR. OGINSKI: On July 14.

18 A. I don't recall.

19 My note does not indicate
20 that there was pain that prevented or, I
21 should say, caused her to guard.

22 Q. You said that patient
23 encouraged to continue doing passively
24 move foot in an inverted position as much
25 as possible, was that the positioning

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2 that she was guarding?

3

A. Yes.

4

Q. And did you have any
5 conversation with her as to why she might
6 be experiencing any difficulty with that
7 movement in particular?

8

A. Well, I don't recall any
9 particular conversation, but it would
10 make sense that she would guard upon
11 inversion because that does provide extra
12 stress on the tendon that was just
13 lengthened.

14 Q. Can you turn, please, to
15 your letter dated August 25, 2004 on your
16 letterhead? It says to whom it may
17 concern, who was this letter to be sent
18 to, Doctor?

19 A. I don't recall to whom it
20 may concern. It was apparently a letter
21 that she requested from my staff.

22 Q. Is that for getting
23 additional physical therapy visits?

24 A. Yes, but a particular name
25 I'm not sure of.

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2 Q. It was to be extended for
3 another 16 visits?

4

A. Yes.

5

Q. Now, you write, after her
6 most recent evaluation, can you tell me
7 which evaluation it is that you referred
8 to concerning that date of her last or of
9 her most recent evaluation before
10 August 25?

11 MS. : Do you
12 understand the question?

13 THE WITNESS: No.

14 MS. : Please
15 rephrase it.

16 Q. You write, after her most
17 recent evaluation, and then you go on to
18 describe what it was.

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. Can you refer back to which
21 evaluation you're referring to?

22 A. I presume it was the
23 July 14th note.

24 Q. Okay.

25 MS. : Is that

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2 the --

3 THE WITNESS: The last note
4 from her.

5 Q. You write that improvement
6 was noted, however, full function not yet
7 achieved.

8 MS. : Where are
9 you quoting from?

10 MR. OGINSKI: The August 25
11 note.

12 Q. Can you tell me what you
13 meant by that?

14 A. Improvement, meaning her
15 range of motion or swelling. She was
16 feeling much better, the ulceration I
17 don't believe had fully closed entirely,
18 but basically she was able to weightbear
19 much more comfortably, but I felt
20 physical therapy wasn't needed on the
21 second course.

22 Q. When you said full
23 functioning not yet achieved, what did
24 you mean by that?

25 A. Full inversion.

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2 Q. And did you have any
3 particular time frame or time line as to
4 when you would have expected her to have
5 full inversion and full range of motion?

6 A. Soft tissue procedures can
7 become very lengthy, many times more
8 subtle in terms of healing than bone. So
9 I keep the option open, not option, I'm
10 sorry, I keep the time frame open as to
11 full healing. It's very difficult to
12 say, but I never sensed that she was
13 entirely compliant, so it would be, it
14 would vary, the healing timetable.

15 Q. And I think we discussed
16 earlier that that compliance was a gut
17 feeling rather than any actual confirmed
18 observations or confirmation?

19 A. Right.

20 Q. You also note in the
21 August 25 letter, you say lack of full
22 range of motion with inflammation,
23 correct?

24 A. I don't see that.

25 Q. It's the last letter of the

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first paragraph.

(A discussion was held off
the record.)

Q. Doctor, in the last line of
the first paragraph it says, lack of full
range of motion with inflammation.

A. Yes.

Q. Did you have any opinion at
that time as to why she was still
experiencing lack of full range of motion
with inflammation?

A. The inflammation I'm not
sure. However, any time there is soft
tissue that hasn't healed, it will be
localized, localized swelling or
inflammation specific to the site.

As far as the lack of full
range of motion, my only guess is that
many times patients are not, the reason
for sending them to physical therapy is
not resolved in the first regimen of
treatment, so I usually have to send them
back for another X amount of visits.

Q. And what is postoperative

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tendonitis?

A. Swelling of the tendon or
the tendon sheath, especially after
having been elongated.

Q. Did you have any
conversation with about why she may
be having postoperative tendonitis as of
August 25, 2004?

A. Any specific recollection of
it I don't recall.

Q. I'm going back now to the
X-rays that we talked about earlier.

You had told me at the
previous deposition that you had
observed, not just clinically, that there
was some evidence of an enlarged
malleolus, but there was evidence on
X-rays of an enlarged malleolus; is that
correct?

A. Correct.

Q. Can you tell me which X-rays
it was that you were referring to where
you were able to visualize that enlarged
part of her anatomy?

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MS. : I think he
already discussed that in the last
deposition.

MR. OGINSKI: It was at page

172

6 46 of his deposition.
7 MS. : Let me take
8 a look.
9 A. The ankle mortise.
10 Q. And just which date and
11 which X-ray, Doctor?
12 A. Left foot, November 26, '03.
13 Q. That's the AP view?
14 A. No.
15 Q. I'm sorry, the ankle
16 mortise?
17 A. Right.
18 Q. When you talked to
19 about your recommendation to have the
20 tendon lengthening procedure, did you ever
21 suggest to her that there were any other
22 procedures that could be done after, in
23 other words, if this doesn't work we can
24 do X, Y and Z or we can do the following
25 treatment?

0173

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2 A. I don't recall mentioning
3 that to her. Sometimes -- I just don't
4 remember ever suggesting to her
5 Q. Did you ever have any direct
6 conversations with any of the
7 radiologists who read and interpreted
8 's MRI's?
9 A. Direct conversation, no.
10 Q. Before recommending to
11 that she have the tendon lengthening
12 procedure, did you ever tell that
13 you would like to try and adjust her
14 orthotics that she currently had?
15 A. I don't recall suggesting
16 that to her.
17 Q. Can the change in orthotics,
18 either in the substance or the makeup of
19 the orthotics, sometimes relieve a
20 patient's complaints of pain?
21 MS. : Objection.
22 Narrow it to this patient,
23 please.
24 Q. Okay.
25 Would you agree, Doctor,

0174

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2 that sometimes adjusting orthotics or
3 changing the material in orthotics or a
4 support can make a difference in pain
5 relief?
6 MS. : It's the
7 same objection.
8 Narrow it to .
9 Q. When came to you and
10 advised you that she had in the past had

173

174

11 orthotics and they were not giving her
12 relief, did you attempt to make any
13 changes to the orthotics that she had?

14 A. No, I did not.

15 Q. Was there a particular
16 reason as to why you did not chose to
17 offer her that treatment option?

18 A. Well, specifically, if I can
19 speak general first?

20 Q. I'd like just specifics, if
21 you can.

22 A. So, the question again is?
23 (The requested portion was
24 read by the reporter.)

25 Q. For modifying or changing

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2 her orthotics.

3 A. The only reason that I can
4 think of would be that the orthotics were
5 made by previous physicians or whoever
6 made them up for her.

7 If they're made by me for my
8 patients I'm seeing, then I will offer
9 that as a form of conservative treatment
10 initially.

11 Q. And is there any particular
12 reason as to why you did not offer an
13 orthotic regimen to her before engaging
14 in, recommending surgery?

15 A. Well, I'm sure I offered her
16 the option of going back to where the
17 orthotics were made because I do that
18 frequently and have them, whoever it was
19 done by, modify them, you know, and they
20 would be indicated on a prescription as
21 to what my changes, my recommended
22 changes should be.

23 Q. Doctor, I think, not to
24 belabor the point, I think we've already
25 confirmed that there was nothing to

0176

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176

2 indicate that you were going to do or had
3 that done?

4 A. Right.

5 Q. My question to you is, is
6 there any particular reason as to why you
7 did not offer her to have new orthotics
8 made or those that she had modified?

9 A. Well, I didn't think that
10 orthotics would make a radical change in
11 her pain.

12 Q. Why?

13 A. I didn't think it would
14 improve it.

15 Q. Why?

16 A. Because it was clear that
17 her tendon was visibly tight, palpably
18 tight, and an orthotic would not be a
19 consideration as far as I was concerned
20 with her treatment.

21 Q. In your evaluation of ,
22 when she had originally complained of her
23 pain and her symptoms to you, before you
24 had recommended this tendon lengthening
25 procedure did you form any opinion as to

0177

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2 whether she was doing any type of
3 activity which was causing excessive use
4 or pronation for the foot causing her
5 pain?

177

6 A. I don't believe I formed an
7 opinion that there was any excessive
8 aggravating activity that was causing the
9 problem. No more than I recall her
10 stating that she stood for long periods
11 of time at the job.

12 But I don't recall any
13 traumatic event that she indicated to me
14 or anything like that.

15 Q. The sinus tarsi string that
16 you talked about earlier in your first
17 deposition, how do you alleviate or how
18 do you treat the sinus tarsi string
19 separate and apart from surgery?

20 MS. : Objection to
21 form.

22 Are you asking whether there
23 are other ways to treat it or are you
24 asking in this patient or --

25 Just please rephrase the

0178

1
2 question.

178

3 MR. OGINSKI: All right.

4 Q. Describe for me the
5 different methods or modalities of
6 treating sinus tarsi string?

7 MS. : In this
8 particular patient or in general?

9 MR. OGINSKI: In general.

10 MS. : Okay.

11 A. One modality would be
12 cortisone injection therapy, physical
13 therapy, such as ultrasound. If the pain
14 is, you know, not too severe,
15 anti-inflammatories or any combination of
16 the three.

17 Q. Does immobilizing that part
18 of the anatomy or that part of the foot
19 help in relieving the problems of sinus
20 tarsi string?

21 A. Relieving, yes.
22 It's a little difficult to
23 maintain due to most patients who are
24 active, so the compliance level really
25 drops tremendously when you're speaking

0179

1 of immobilizing any part of the foot.

179

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3 Q. Tell me about the different
4 ways that you can immobilize a patient's
5 foot with sinus tarsi string, other than
6 the Ace bandage that we've already
7 discussed?

8 A. There is an Unna boot which
9 is available which is a soft cast, which
10 is again used for immobilization.

11 You mean -- I'm sorry, you
12 mean modalities just for immobilization?

13 Q. Correct.

14 A. There are ankle casts, air
15 casts.

16 Q. And, in your experience,
17 Doctor, have you had experience in using
18 each of those modalities for
19 immobilization?

20 A. Yes, I have.

21 Q. At any time while you were
22 caring for , did you recommend,
23 other than the Ace bandage, using either
24 the device like an Unna boot, an ankle
25 cast or an air cast?

0180

1 I don't recall using -- I'm
2 sorry, I don't recall or recommending
3 those modalities.

180

4 Q. And is there anything in
5 your notes that you saw that would
6 suggest that you did at some point
7 recommend any of those modalities to
8 treat immobilization for this type of
9 sinus tarsi string?

10 A. I don't believe so, but let
11 me just look further.

12 No.

13 Q. Okay.

14 Do you have an opinion,
15 Doctor, as you sit here now as to whether
16 the tendon lengthening procedure that you
17 performed on was successful?

18 MS. : Objection to
19 form.

20 Successful? Objection to
21 form.

22 Q. Achieved the desired result.

23 A. I believe it did.

24 Q. How?

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A. Postoperatively I did not --
I was not able to palpate readily the
peritoneal tendon, nor was it visible.

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She did -- I recall she did
experience increased range of motion,
specifically on inversion.

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However, I might add that

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after her second course of physical
therapy, I should say after her first
course of physical therapy, I wasn't able
to follow-up, she never returned, so
there was no particular closure to her
treatment that I would have liked.

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Q. When you say that you were
not able to palpate the peritoneal tendon
nor was it visible, tell me what you mean
by that?

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A. It basically was much less
taut.

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Q. So, it had more slack?

A. Absolutely.

Q. Do you recall having any

conversations with after
approximately August of 2004, either her

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or her parents, about her ongoing
condition?

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A. After August 2004?

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Q. Did you --
THE WITNESS: Can I?

MR. OGINSKI: Yes.

MS. : Excuse us.

(The witness conferred with
counsel.)

Q. Were you provided with any
of 's ongoing medical records at any
time after August of 2005 up until today
that you have reviewed?

A. None.

Q. Turning to the surgery,
Doctor, and your operative report of May
14, 2004.

The resident or the

assistant --

MS. : We already
talked about her, but go ahead.

0183

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MR. OGINSKI: I know.

Q. Did she make any decisions
as to how the procedure was going to be

5 performed?
6 MS. : Objection to
7 the form.
8 You can answer.
9 A. My assistant?
10 Q. Yes.
11 A. No.
12 Q. What is it that she actually
13 did during the procedure for you?
14 A. Basically, retract soft
15 tissue so that the tendon was visible.
16 Q. To your knowledge, did
17 ever see
18 separately and independently from you
19 either at Hospital
20 or at any other office?
21 A. No, she didn't.
22 The only thing that probably
23 could have happened in the recovery room,
24 as most patients go after the procedure,
25 the residents will then follow-up with

0184

1
2 prescriptions and that sort of thing and
3 see the patient on their way out, where I
4 would not be physically there.
5 Q. At any time before you had
6 recommended surgery, did you form an
7 opinion as to whether had any type
8 of peritoneal spasm in her foot?
9 A. She never indicated to me
10 any kind of muscular spasms or that type
11 of complication, no.
12 Q. And was there anything that
13 you observed to suggest that she had the
14 spasm in her foot, in the peritoneal
15 tendon area?
16 A. No, there wasn't.
17 Q. And I just want to clarify,
18 was it also your opinion that she did not
19 have flatfootedness in her left foot?
20 A. No, she did not.
21 MR. OGINSKI: Thank you,
22 Doctor.
23 THE WITNESS: Sure.
24 MS. : I just have a
25 couple of questions.

0185

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2 EXAMINATION BY MS. :
3 Q. Were Dr. actions
4 at your supervision and direction?
5 A. Sure.
6 Q. And did you discharge the
7 plaintiff from the hospital?
8 A. Yes, I did.
9 Q. Were any postoperative

184

185

10 instructions provided by you?
11 A. Yes, they all are.
12 Q. And were any prescriptions
13 provided by you?
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16 (Continued on next page to
17 allow room for jurat.)
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0186

1 186
2 A. Yes.
3 MS. : No further
4 questions.
5 MR. : I have no
6 questions for you today, Doctor.
7 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
8
9 (Time Noted: 11:47 a.m.)
10
11

12 -----
13 , M.D.

14 Subscribed and sworn to
15 before me on this _____ day
16 of _____, 2006.
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NOTARY PUBLIC

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0187

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2 C E R T I F I C A T I O N
3

4 I, KARIN GENALO, a Certified Shorthand
5 Reporter and Notary Public, do hereby certify that
6 the foregoing witness, , M.D., was duly
7 sworn on the date indicated, and that the foregoing
8 is a true and accurate transcription of my
9 stenographic notes.

10 I further certify that I am not employed
11 by nor related to any party to this action.
12
13
14

15 -----
KARIN GENALO, CSR
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10 NAME OF DEPONENT: , M.D.
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21 _____
, M.D.

22
23 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME
24 THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 20__.

25 _____
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