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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF

- - - - -x

Plaintiff,
-against-

Defendants.

- - - - -x

12:10 p.m.

EXAMINATION BEFORE TRIAL of ,
M.D., a Defendant in the above-entitled
action, held at the above time and place,
taken before , a Notary
Public of the State of New York, pursuant
to Order.

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APPEARANCES:

LAW OFFICES OF GERALD M. OGINSKI, LLC
Attorneys for Plaintiff
25 Great Neck Road
Great Neck, New York 11021

BY: GERALD M. OGINSKI, ESQ.

Attorneys for all Defendants

BY:

Attorneys for Defendant

* * *

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STIPULATIONS

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IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED, by and among
the attorneys for the respective parties
hereto, that:

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All rights provided by the C.P.L.R.,
and Part 221 of the Uniform Rules for the
Conduct of Depositions, including the
right to object to any question, except
as to form, or to move to strike any
testimony at this examination is
reserved; and in addition, the failure to
object to any question or to move to
strike any testimony at this examination
shall not be a bar or waiver to make such
motion at, and is reserved to, the trial
of this action.

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This deposition may be sworn to by the
witness being examined before a Notary
Public other than the Notary Public
before whom this examination was begun,
but the failure to do so or to return the
original of this deposition to counsel,
shall not be deemed a waiver of the
rights provided by Rule 3116, C.P.L.R.,

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2 and shall be controlled thereby.

3 The filing of the original of this
4 deposition is waived.

5 IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED, a copy of
6 this examination shall be furnished to
7 the attorney for the witness being
8 examined without charge.

9

10 * * *

11

12 , the Witness
13 herein, having first been duly sworn by
14 the Notary Public, was examined and
15 testified as follows:

16 EXAMINATION BY

17 MR. OGINSKI:

18 Q Please state your name for the
19 record?

20 A .

21 Q Please state your address for
22 the record?

23 A

24

25 Q Good afternoon, Doctor. If

1
2 this patient had suffered an intestinal
3 leak following bowel resection, what
4 symptoms would you expect her to have?

5 MR. : Object to the
6 form. At what point in time and
7 where?

8 MR. OGINSKI: Postoperatively.

9 MR. : Not in the OR?

10 MR. OGINSKI: No.

11 MR. : During what
12 interval?

13 MR. OGINSKI: Within a day or
14 two after her surgery.

15 MR. : Can you answer
16 that in a general way?

17 MR. OGINSKI: This patient.

18 MR. : He's asking about
19 this specific patient.

20 A I'm sorry, could you repeat the
21 question?

22 MR. : This is kind of
23 confusing because there was a
24 diagnosis of post-op leak.

25 MR. OGINSKI: I'll rephrase it.

1

2 Q You did not participate in this
3 patient's surgery of ;
4 correct?

5 A Correct.

6 Q You treated her the following
7 day, on post-op day one; correct?

8 A Correct.

9 Q On that day, you were the GYN
10 oncology fellow?

11 A Correct.

12 Q And on post-op day one, if she
13 had an intestinal leak following her
14 surgery of , what
15 symptoms would you have expected her to
16 have?

17 MR. : At the time of
18 your care and treatment on post-op
19 day one.

20 MR. OGINSKI: Correct.

21 A Patient with a postoperative
22 leak would present with symptoms of
23 elevated temperatures, potentially
24 abdominal pain, symptoms of nausea,
25 vomiting. Those would be the symptoms I

1

2 would expect.

3 Q What clinical findings would
4 you expect to see in this patient, if she
5 had a leak following this bowel resection
6 on post-op day number one?

7 MR. : Like on physical
8 exam?

9 MR. OGINSKI: Correct.

10 A You would expect an abdomen to
11 be possibly firm, with abdominal
12 tenderness, signs of rebound, signs of
13 guarding.

14 Q Why would you expect to see
15 rebound or guarding?

16 MR. : You can answer
17 that.

18 A Yes, it's not uncommon if you
19 have spillage of enteric content into the
20 peritoneal cavity, to develop a
21 peritonitis when you have these abdominal
22 signs.

23 Q What is peritonitis?

24 A Abdominal peritonitis?

25 Q Yes.

1

2 A It would be an inflammation of
3 the lining of the abdomen, the peritoneum
4 and this would coincide with findings of
5 tenderness, rebound, guarding.

6 Q What is enteric contents?

7 A Usually these are contents
8 within the intestines.

9 Q What is an incidental
10 enterotomy?

11 MR. : I have to object
12 to form. You mean as he understood
13 in this case?

14 MR. OGINSKI: Yes.

15 MR. : Did you have an
16 understanding of the term incidental
17 enterotomy?

18 MR. OGINSKI: I'll rephrase.

19 Q Doctor, what is an enterotomy?

20 A Is when you enter the small
21 bowel.

22 Q And are you aware of the term,
23 incidental enterotomy?

24 A I am familiar.

25 Q What is that?

1

2 A This is when you enter the
3 small bowel unintentionally.

4 Q Did you learn that Dr. ,
5 during the course of surgery on
6 , created an incidental
7 enterotomy?

8 A I was.

9 Q How did you learn that?

10 A During the sign out from the
11 primary fellow.

12 Q Who was that?

13 A .

14 Q And at that time, I'm sorry,
15 you said he was a fellow?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Are you aware of where Dr.
18 practices currently?

19 A I am not.

20 Q Are you still currently working
21 at ?

22 A I am.

23 Q In what capacity?

24 A I'm a fellow.

25 Q In what particular department

1

2 or area?

3 A In the department of surgery in
4 on the GYN service.

5 Q How much longer do you have
6 before you complete your fellowship?

7 A .

8 Q And do you intend on remaining
9 at after you've completed your
10 fellowship?

11 A No.

12 Q Where did you intend on going?

13 A .

14 Q How long has your fellowship
15 been?

16 A It will be four years once it's
17 complete.

18 Q What specialty is that in?

19 A Gynecologic oncology.

20 Q And am I correct that that
21 fellowship is in addition to four years
22 of residency?

23 A Correct.

24 Q Would that be in obstetrics and
25 gynecology?

1

2 A Correct.

3 Q As you sit here now, are you

4 board certified in any field?

5 A No.

6 Q Are you board eligible?

7 A Yes.

8 Q That would be in obstetrics and

9 gynecology?

10 A Correct.

11 Q Am I also correct that before

12 you can sit for your GYN oncology boards,

13 you must complete your fellowship

14 program?

15 A Correct.

16 Q Have you ever testified before?

17 MR. : Yes or no.

18 A In a court?

19 Q Anywhere, here in a setting

20 like this, in a question and answer

21 session, in a court case or court?

22 A I've given a deposition before.

23 Q How long ago was that?

24 A About four years ago.

25 Q Was that a case where you were

1

2 named as a party to a lawsuit?

3 A I don't recall.

4 Q Were you a participant in

5 treatment rendered to a patient?

6 A I was a resident. It was a

7 case during my training.

8 Q Do you have a memory as to

9 where that case is actually pending or

10 where it was pending, what county?

11 A .

12 Q Where did you do your

13 residency?

14 A .

15 Q When did you finish that?

16 A

17 Q Did you have any participation

18 in the decision or procedure that was

19 performed on this patient on

20 ?

21 MR. : That's a compound

22 question, but it's permissible. Do

23 you understand it?

24 THE WITNESS: No.

25 MR. : Okay, there are

1

2 two questions there.

3 Q Did you participate in the
4 discussion with this patient, about what
5 choice of surgery she was going to have
6 ultimately on

7 A No.

8 Q Did you ever see this patient
9 before

10 A No.

11 Q Did you ever have a
12 conversation with this patient or her
13 husband, Mr. before

14 ?

15 A No.

16 MR. : The surgery was

17

18 MR. OGINSKI: Right.

19 MR. : Okay.

20 Q Did you learn from Dr. at
21 the time of sign out, that this patient
22 had undergone an elective hernia repair
23 by Dr. ?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And what day did you receive

1

2 this sign out from Dr. ?

3 A This would have been Friday
4 night.

5 Q And as far as you recall, was
6 that the ?

7 MR. : If surgery was, I
8 believe was on , which
9 was a .

10 A So this would have been that
11 night.

12 Q Do you have a memory of the
13 conversation between Dr. and
14 yourself, regarding this patient during
15 sign out?

16 A I recall speaking to Dr.
17 about sign out.

18 Q In addition to this patient,
19 how many other patients were signed out
20 to you?

21 A I don't recall.

22 Q Typically, did you have more
23 than one patient that you were assigned
24 to?

25 A Yes.

1

2 Q And for how long a time were
3 you on this particular rotation?

4 MR. : When you say
5 "rotation," can you be more specific?

6 MR. OGINSKI: Sure.

7 Q When you were taking over for
8 Dr. , you were a fellow on the GYN
9 oncology service; correct?

10 A I was a fellow in the GYN
11 department.

12 Q And what was the service that
13 you actually belonged to?

14 A I was an off service fellow.

15 Q What does that mean?

16 A That means I was not currently
17 on any of the services.

18 Q What was your role and
19 responsibility for taking over from Dr.
20 that evening?

21 A I was on the call fellow for
22 the weekend.

23 Q And in addition to caring for
24 the GYN oncology patients, were you also
25 caring for any other types of patients

1

2 over that weekend?

3 A We field consults for GYN
4 oncology care as well.

5 Q Is that only at ?

6 A Correct.

7 Q Did you have a conversation
8 with Dr. that evening,
9 about this particular patient?

10 A No.

11 Q I would like you to tell me as
12 best you can recall, what Dr. said
13 to you and what you said to him, if
14 anything, about this particular patient?

15 MR. : Only what you can
16 recall without guessing, is what he's
17 asking.

18 A As best I would recall, I would
19 have gotten sign out from Dr. .

20 Q I'm sorry, I don't want to
21 interrupt you. I don't want you to tell
22 me what you would have gotten.

23 I would like you to tell me
24 what he did tell you, if you remember?

25 MR. : He's

1
2 distinguishing what customarily would
3 occur, which might be other things
4 from that which actually you do
5 remember.

6 Do you understand what I'm
7 saying?

8 THE WITNESS: Yes.

9 MR. : Okay, can you do
10 that? Is there anything that you
11 remember, that's what he's saying?

12 A I recall getting sign out from
13 Dr. that evening. I recall the
14 procedure she had. I don't recall any
15 specifics in addition to that.

16 Q What did he tell you about the
17 procedure that she had?

18 A That she had an elective hernia
19 repair, had an incidental enterotomy that
20 was repaired and otherwise the procedure
21 was uncomplicated.

22 Q Did Dr. tell you he
23 participated in this patient's surgery?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Did he tell you that he had

1
2 spoken to the family about this
3 incidental enterotomy?

4 A I don't recall.

5 Q Did he tell you he was present
6 for any conversation with Dr. , at
7 a discussion with the family or the
8 patient about this incidental enterotomy?

9 A I don't recall.

10 Q When someone gives you sign out
11 and you are now coming on as the on call
12 fellow, do you typically take notes?

13 A I don't recall in this case,
14 but it's my custom to take notes when I
15 get a sign out.

16 Q What do you do with those
17 notes?

18 In other words, are they
19 handwritten, are they put into some sort
20 of electronic device or computer or
21 something else?

22 A They're usually handwritten
23 notes.

24 Q What do you do with those notes
25 throughout the course of your day or

1
2 evening or when you are finished with
3 your call?

4 MR. : That's three
5 questions.

6 Q What do you do with your notes
7 after your call is done?

8 A I reference my notes as needed
9 during my call.

10 Q And after, what do you do with
11 those notes?

12 A I discard them in a
13 confidential bin.

14 Q Is that a shredder?

15 A It's a bin.

16 Q Do you know what happens to
17 that?

18 A I don't.

19 Q Do those notes ever get
20 transcribed or put into the patient's
21 chart?

22 A They do not.

23 Q Were there any other fellows on
24 call with you, who was also responsible
25 for caring for the same patients you were

1

2 caring for?

3 A No.

4 Q Were there any residents that
5 rotated through that particular service?

6 MR. : That's a yes or
7 no.

8 A Yes.

9 Q And did any of those residents
10 participate in rendering care and
11 treatment to the postoperative GYN
12 oncology patients?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And if a particular patient had
15 a problem or a complication, what is the
16 sequence or chain that occurs, whereby
17 you would be notified, as opposed to a
18 resident?

19 MR. : Just object to the
20 form. If there is an absolute
21 sequence of events as opposed to
22 variably in that.

23 MR. OGINSKI: Sure, I have no
24 problem with that.

25 A Can you repeat the question?

1

2 Q Sure. How is it that you would
3 get a call if there was a complication
4 with a post-op patient, as opposed to a
5 resident covering that same service?

6 A In general, residents can take
7 a first call or at times, the fellow may
8 be called directly.

9 Q Did you have any conversations
10 with Dr. over the weekend that you
11 were on call?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And specifically about this
14 particular patient?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And when was the first time you
17 had a conversation with him about this
18 patient?

19 A I don't recall my first
20 conversation. It would be my custom,
21 after rounds in the morning, to notify
22 the attending about their patients, give
23 them an update on how they're doing.

24 I do recall speaking to Dr.
25 Saturday afternoon, after rounding

1

2 on her.

3 Q Am I correct, you make rounds
4 in the morning and also in the afternoon?

5 A Correct.

6 MR. : Afternoon or
7 evening?

8 THE WITNESS: Late afternoon,
9 early evening.

10 Q And when you make rounds, do
11 you do it with any other residents or any
12 other fellows?

13 A It depends.

14 Q In this particular case, do you
15 have a memory as to who, if anyone else,
16 participated in rounds with you on
17 post-op patients?

18 MR. : When he says it
19 depends, can you elaborate?

20 A Sure, it depends on
21 availability of fellows. It depends
22 which rounds we're talking about. If
23 this is pre-rounds, formal rounds,
24 afternoon rounds.

25 Q When you make rounds and you

1
2 examine the patient, do you typically
3 make a note in the patient's chart,
4 indicating that you have seen and
5 examined the patient?

6 MR. : When you say
7 "typically," I have to object to the
8 form. Does that mean always or
9 sometimes?

10 MR. OGINSKI: I'll rephrase it.

11 Q Would you agree, Doctor, that
12 in most instances when you perform
13 rounds, if you see and examine a patient,
14 do you make a note in the patient's chart
15 about your examination?

16 MR. : Objection to form.

17 A Would you repeat the question,
18 I'm sorry?

19 MR. : I'm not sure what
20 you mean by most instances.

21 Q After you see and examine a
22 patient, do you make a note in the
23 patient's chart?

24 MR. : Do you want to
25 just ask him what he does for the

1
2 different rounds and make it easier
3 and see if that derives more
4 questions? I'm not telling you what
5 you have to do, but before he gave an
6 answer, he said pre-rounds,
7 post-rounds, whatever, maybe that
8 will help derive what you are trying
9 to figure out.

10 Q If you see and examine a
11 patient at any given time on rounds or
12 otherwise and you examine them, is it
13 your custom and practice to make a note
14 in the patient's chart, indicating that
15 you have seen and examined the patient
16 and these are your findings?

17 A It depends.

18 Q On what?

19 A It depends on the content of
20 the exam, the time of the exam, what the
21 goal of that interaction with that
22 patient was and that would determine
23 what, if anything, I document in the
24 chart.

25 Q Under what circumstances do you

1

2 make an entry in the chart?

3 A Again, it depends on the
4 circumstances regarding my interaction
5 with that patient.

6 Q If you are making rounds with a
7 resident, are there instances where you
8 will have the resident make an entry in
9 the chart, based upon your examination of
10 the patient?

11 A Can you rephrase the question?

12 Q Sure. If you are performing
13 rounds on a patient and you have one or
14 more residents with you, are there
15 instances where you will not make an
16 entry in the patient's chart, but instead
17 direct one of the residents to make an
18 entry in the chart?

19 A There may be times, yes.

20 Q Now, in preparation for today's
21 question session, did you have a chance
22 to review this patient's records?

23 A I reviewed my notes in her
24 record.

25 Q And the notes that appear for

1

2 , do they reflect notes
3 you made at the time of rounds or at
4 other points during the day?

5 A I believe I have two notes.
6 One would have been my morning rounds and
7 the second note would have been after
8 evaluating the patient in the late
9 afternoon rounds.

10 Q Now, do you have a memory of
11 your conversation with Dr. , after
12 you made morning rounds?

13 A I do not.

14 Q Do you have a memory of your
15 conversation with Dr. in the
16 afternoon or early evening?

17 A I recall speaking with Dr.
18 and updating him on my findings
19 with the patient.

20 Q Can you be specific, please?

21 A Can I refer to my note?

22 Q I'll go through the notes with
23 you.

24 Separate and apart from what's
25 contained in the note, do you have a

1
2 memory as you sit here now, of what you
3 said to him and he said to you?

4 MR. : Not all the
5 details, just some of them, if they
6 stand out.

7 A I remember contacting Dr.
8 and describing that the patient
9 had been complaining of some chest
10 discomfort. And I remember describing
11 our plan at the time for management.

12 Q Which was what?

13 A Which was to order an EKG,
14 obtain the medicine consult.

15 Q Anything else?

16 A That's all I recall.

17 Q Did you suggest to Dr.
18 any possibilities or possible diagnoses?

19 A I don't recall.

20 Q Did Dr. suggest to you
21 what he was thinking, based upon the
22 presentation that you described?

23 A I don't recall.

24 Q Did you in fact order an EKG?

25 A An EKG was ordered, yes.

1

2 Q Did you order a medicine
3 consult?

4 A A medicine consult was ordered,
5 yes.

6 Q Did you also have a
7 conversation with Dr. about
8 calling in a cardiologist for a
9 consultation?

10 MR. : Or was that
11 already done or did they talk about
12 that?

13 Q Did you have any conversation
14 about calling in a cardiology consult?

15 A I don't recall speaking to him
16 about that.

17 Q Did you have any conversation
18 with any resident who was also caring for
19 this patient, other than Dr. ,
20 about the patient's complaint of chest
21 discomfort?

22 A At the time of rounds, I'm sure
23 I would have discussed our plan with the
24 resident, yes.

25 Q I don't want you to guess. I'm

1
2 asking, do you have a specific memory as
3 you sit here now, of having a specific
4 conversation with any resident?

5 A At the time of rounds, I
6 rounded with my resident and we came up
7 with the plan.

8 Q Who was that?

9 A Dr. .

10 Q And what was Dr.
11 position at that time?

12 A Dr. as a rotating
13 resident on the GYN surgery service.

14 Q Do you know what year?

15 A I do not.

16 Q Does Dr. still work at
17 ?

18 A Not that I'm aware.

19 Q Are you aware of where he
20 works?

21 A No, they're rotating residents
22 from all over New York.

23 Q Do you have a specific memory
24 of the conversation you had with Dr.
25 about this patient?

1

2 A I don't recall.

3 Q Do you have any notes in this

4 patient's chart about any conversation

5 you had with Dr. ?

6 A I don't believe there are any

7 notes from a conversation I had with Dr.

8 , no.

9 Q Do you have any notes in this

10 chart about any conversation you had with

11 Dr. , regarding the sign out he made

12 to you that evening?

13 A Do I have a note in the chart

14 that I spoke to Dr. , no.

15 Q Now, you told me a little

16 earlier that leakage of intestinal

17 contents into the abdomen can cause

18 irritation of the peritoneum; correct?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And that's known as

21 peritonitis?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Can leakage of intestinal

24 contents into the abdomen cause

25 hypotension?

1

2 Q Sure. On ,
3 when you saw this patient, was there ever
4 any suggestion that she had signs of
5 sepsis?

6 MR. : I have to object
7 to the form.

8 MR. OGINSKI: That's okay, I'll
9 rephrase it.

10 MR. : You mean what his
11 impression was?

12 MR. OGINSKI: I'll rephrase if.

13 Q Did you ever form an opinion or
14 an impression on , that this
15 patient had signs of sepsis on
16 ?

17 A On , my assessment
18 was this patient was having episode of a
19 cardio event.

20 Q Can leakage of intestinal
21 contents into the abdomen cause EKG
22 changes?

23 MR. : Object to the
24 form, can. Is it possible?

25 A Not in my experience.

1

2 Q Can leakage of intestinal
3 contents into the abdomen cause
4 tachycardia?

5 MR. : Again, the same,
6 is it possible in your understanding
7 or experience?

8 A Not in my experience.

9 Q Can leakage of intestinal
10 contents into the abdomen cause ST
11 segment changes?

12 A Not in my experience.

13 Q Did you ask Dr. or any
14 other attending physician whether --
15 withdrawn.

16 Can leakage of intestinal
17 contents into the abdomen exacerbate this
18 patient's preexisting cardiac condition?

19 MR. : I have to object
20 to the form of that.

21 Q Did you learn on -- withdrawn.
22 When you took over the care of this
23 patient, did you learn that she had some
24 type of preexisting cardiac condition?

25 A I was aware that she had a

1

2 preexisting SVT.

3 Q Is that commonly known as
4 palpitations?

5 A That can be called palpitation,
6 yes.

7 Q Can leakage of intestinal
8 contents into the abdomen exacerbate that
9 particular condition?

10 A Not in my experience.

11 Q Do you know who called for a
12 cardiac consultation on 1st?

13 MR. : Can you be more
14 specific? I don't mean to be picky,
15 but who actually made the physical
16 call or who said go call, who made
17 the determination?

18 MR. OGINSKI: Fair enough.

19 Q Did you request a cardiac
20 consultation on ?

21 A I don't recall.

22 Q Did Dr. request a
23 cardiac consultation?

24 A I don't recall.

25 Q Did any resident request a

1

2 cardiac consultation on 1st?

3 A As best as I can remember, the

4 medicine consult recommended the

5 cardiology consultation.

6 Q Was that Dr.

7 A I don't recall.

8 Q Do you know who the medicine

9 resident was who saw this patient?

10 A I don't recall.

11 Q Did you learn that various labs

12 were ordered, including enzymes and

13 troponin to rule out cardiac involvement

14 for this patient's complaints?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Did you do those orders?

17 A I don't recall putting in the

18 initial orders, but I was part of the

19 plan for those orders.

20 Q Why were those orders

21 requested?

22 MR. : Which orders?

23 MR. OGINSKI: The ones for

24 cardiac enzymes and troponins.

25 A To the best of my clinical

1
2 judgment, when we saw her at that time,
3 our concern was for a cardiac event and
4 so we began the process to rule out the
5 myocardial infarction.

6 Q What made you believe that the
7 problem she was experiencing was related
8 to a cardiac event, as opposed to
9 something else?

10 MR. : You are asking his
11 recollection now; right?

12 MR. OGINSKI: Correct.

13 A Based on the symptoms she was
14 describing and her vital signs.

15 Q And that was the chest
16 discomfort?

17 A Correct.

18 Q And what vital signs are you
19 referring to?

20 A At that point her heart rate
21 had increased.

22 Q Anything else?

23 A That's all I recall.

24 Q Did you see evidence of
25 tachycardia on her EKG?

1

2 A Yes.

3 Q And did you see evidence of ST
4 segment changes?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And what did that signify to
7 you, if anything?

8 A This would again be suggestive
9 of a cardiac event.

10 Q Did you learn from the patient
11 what symptoms she would have when she had
12 an episode of her palpitations?

13 A Can you rephrase the question?

14 Q Yes. You told me you were
15 aware that she had a particular
16 condition, which is commonly known as
17 palpitations.

18 Did you ask the patient what
19 symptoms she typically had when she
20 experienced palpitations?

21 A Yes.

22 Q What did you learn?

23 A She would experience again, the
24 sensation of palpitations and rapid heart
25 rate.

1

2 Q Was any chest discomfort
3 associated with her prior palpitations?

4 A Not that I recall.

5 Q Now, did you learn what the
6 results were of the cardiac enzymes and
7 labs that were drawn once you made the
8 observation of these EKG changes?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And did you learn that there
11 was no evidence of a myocardial
12 infarction?

13 A The first troponin was
14 negative.

15 Q What does that mean to you, if
16 anything?

17 A You need three troponins to
18 rule out a myocardial infarction. So
19 that's the first step in a series of
20 three exams.

21 Q Other than that first set of
22 labs, did you learn at any time
23 afterwards, what the other results were?

24 A I recall that at the end of her
25 series of troponins, they were negative

1
2 for evidence of a myocardial infarction.

3 Q Once you learned that
4 information, to what, if anything, did
5 you attribute her chest discomfort?

6 A Cardiac arrhythmia.

7 Q And did you see evidence of a
8 cardiac arrhythmia on her EKGs, when she
9 initially started to complain of chest
10 discomfort?

11 A She had tachycardia.

12 Q And is that a cardiac
13 arrhythmia?

14 A It's a change in her heart
15 rate, yes.

16 Q What is it about that
17 tachycardia that would cause a patient
18 chest discomfort?

19 A Increase in your heart rate is
20 causing your heart muscle to work harder,
21 requiring more oxygen and so potentially
22 can cause chest discomfort.

23 Q Was there anything else that
24 you attributed the patient's change in
25 EKGs to, other than a cardiac arrhythmia?

1

2 A No.

3 Q At any time, did you suspect
4 that this patient had a leakage of
5 intestinal contents on ?

6 MR. : Let me object to
7 the form.

8 When you say "suspect," do you
9 mean, did he consider it and rule it
10 out or did he rule out it? I'm not
11 sure what you mean by suspect.

12 Q At any time on ,
13 did you consider the possibility that
14 this patient's cardiac symptoms were in
15 anyway related to leakage of intestinal
16 content?

17 A Based on her complaints, her
18 vital signs and her clinical exam, her
19 present issues were most consistent with
20 a cardiac event.

21 Q Did you have a conversation
22 with Dr. about the patient's lab
23 results, which revealed that this was
24 negative for myocardial infarction?

25 A At the time we would have had

1
2 already the initial result, which again,
3 one negative troponin does not rule out
4 MI.

5 Q When was it that you learned
6 that all three of the troponin tests were
7 negative?

8 A These tests are done six to
9 eight hours apart, so it would have been
10 sometime the next day.

11 Q And after all those test
12 results came back, did you have a
13 conversation with Dr. about the
14 patient?

15 A I don't recall.

16 Q Did you have a conversation
17 with the patient's husband, with Mr.
18 , about the significance of the
19 enterotomy made during the course of
20 surgery?

21 MR. : I object to the
22 form of that. I'm not sure what you
23 mean. What about the significance?

24 Q What, if anything, did it
25 mean -- withdrawn.

1

2 Did you talk to the patient

3 about this incidental enterotomy on

4 ?

5 A I don't recall speaking to this

6 patient specifically about the

7 enterotomy.

8 Q Did you have a conversation

9 with the patient's husband, Mr. ,

10 about the incidental enterotomy?

11 A I don't recall having a

12 specific conversation about the

13 enterotomy.

14 Q At the time that the patient

15 had the chest discomfort and the EKG

16 changes, was she stable?

17 A What is stable?

18 MR. : You can define it

19 anyway you want to define it. How

20 would you quantify your opinion of

21 her stability, if you can?

22 A The initial presentation, which

23 she began to describe her chest

24 discomfort and began to have changes in

25 her vital signs, she was stable. But she

1
2 began to decompensate.

3 Q How?

4 A Her blood pressure began to
5 decrease and her heart rate continued to
6 increase.

7 Q What is the significance of
8 that to you?

9 A At that time, based on our
10 judgment, we were concerned for cardiac
11 event resulting in an arrhythmia and
12 hypotension.

13 Q Were you aware that she was
14 supposed to get a medication known as
15 Metoprolol?

16 MR. : Object to the
17 form, supposed to. I'm not sure what
18 you are talking about.

19 Q Were you involved in any order
20 to administer Metoprolol to this patient?

21 A Yes.

22 Q First of all, what is
23 Metoprolol?

24 A Metoprolol is a beta blocker
25 that is used for both heart rate control

1

2 and blood pressure control.

3 Q And why did you order this

4 medication?

5 A The patient had been on chronic

6 Metoprolol.

7 Q And what form did you order it

8 in?

9 A Pardon?

10 Q How did you order it?

11 A I asked to restart her

12 medications, which is an oral Metoprolol,

13 extended release form.

14 Q Had you learned from the

15 patient or her husband, that this form

16 did not work for the patient in the past?

17 A This is the same medication she

18 was taking as an out-patient and she took

19 the day before surgery.

20 Q This was the extended release

21 oral medication?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And when she began to

24 experience this chest discomfort and the

25 EKG changes, was a different form of

1
2 Metoprolol requested?

3 A I don't recall what all of the
4 medicine recommendations were at that
5 time.

6 MR. : When you say
7 different form requested, I'm not
8 sure who you are saying requested by,
9 by Dr. , did he request a
10 different form?

11 Q Did you request this patient
12 receive Metoprolol in a different form,
13 other than oral medication?

14 A At what point?

15 Q When you recognized she had the
16 chest discomfort and the EKG changes?

17 A At that point, we called for a
18 medicine consult for their
19 recommendations.

20 Q Did you have a conversation
21 with the medicine resident, or I'm sorry,
22 with the medicine consult, about their
23 evaluation of the patient?

24 A I don't recall, but I'm sure I
25 would have.

1

2 Q Do you have anything in your
3 notes to reflect that you had a
4 conversation with the medicine consult?

5 A Can I see my note?

6 Q I'm going to go through the
7 notes with you.

8 I'm asking, do you have a
9 memory as you sit here now of a note --

10 A Repeat the question.

11 Q Sure. In your review of the
12 chart, do you have a memory of seeing any
13 notes about any conversation you had with
14 the medicine consult?

15 MR. : He doesn't
16 remember. Do you remember what your
17 note says, is what you are asking
18 him?

19 MR. OGINSKI: Yes.

20 A I believe in my note I document
21 discussing with the medicine resident.

22 Q Did have their own
23 intensive care unit?

24 A Are you asking if we have our
25 own intensive care unit?

1

2 Q Yes.

3 A Yes, we do.

4 Q Was there any discussion about

5 transferring this patient to the

6 intensive care unit on ?

7 A There was.

8 Q And who was the discussion

9 with?

10 A The discussion was with the

11 intensive care unit fellow, the

12 cardiology attending and with Dr. .

13 Q And who was the ICU fellow?

14 A I don't recall.

15 Q Did you have that conversation

16 with the ICU fellow?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And when you say the

19 conversation with -- withdrawn.

20 The cardiology attending, was

21 that Dr. ?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And did you have a conversation

24 with all these people at the same time or

25 were they at different points?

1

2 A There wasn't a conference call,
3 but, yes, everyone involved in the
4 decision making, yes.

5 Q And what was the understanding
6 as to why this patient was not going to
7 be transferred to the intensive care unit
8 at ?

9 A 's intensive care unit
10 is geared towards a surgical intensive
11 care unit. This patient's acute issues
12 were cardiac arrhythmias and difficulty
13 with stabilizing her cardiac status.

14 And Dr. felt she could
15 receive proper cardiac care at the
16 cardiac unit, where if she would
17 need invasive cardiac procedures, that
18 can be done there. We don't have those
19 services at .

20 Q And what, if anything, did Dr.
21 contribute to that discussion?

22 A What I recall, Dr. was
23 in agreement that the patient needed
24 intensive cardiac monitoring and that
25 would be better served at .

1

2 Q Now, Dr. was called in
3 as a consult?

4 A Correct.

5 Q And on the floor where this
6 patient was currently situated at
7 , was she on an EKG monitor?

8 A Our floor is not a telemetry
9 floor.

10 Q And the EKGs that your counsel
11 provided to me, these are taken one time
12 events?

13 A This would have been a portable
14 machine, correct.

15 Q Are there floors or divisions
16 within , that do have telemetry
17 available?

18 A Yes.

19 Q What floors would those be?

20 A Specifically

21 Q What departments or divisions
22 are those?

23 A These are again general floors,
24 patients with acute cardiac issues can be
25 monitored there with telemetry.

1

2 Q Was it also your impression
3 that the patient's cardiac arrhythmia was
4 responsible for those EKG changes that
5 you told me about earlier?

6 A At that time, our clinical
7 assessment was she was having a cardiac
8 event, either myocardial infarction or an
9 arrhythmia, that was the result in the
10 EKG changes.

11 Q When you learned after getting
12 back the troponin labs, that there was no
13 myocardial infarction, to what, if
14 anything, did you attribute her EKG
15 changes to?

16 MR. : I object to the
17 form. So the next day?

18 MR. OGINSKI: Yes.

19 MR. : Did he do that?

20 MR. OGINSKI: Yes.

21 Q When you learned there was no
22 myocardial infarction, did you come to
23 any impression or conclusion as to what
24 was responsible for those cardiac
25 changes, those EKG changes?

1

2 A I don't recall.

3 Q Did you make a note in the
4 patient's chart about what you felt or
5 thought the patient's EKG changes were
6 due to, in light of the troponins being
7 negative?

8 A No, at that time she was at
9 and I don't have privileges
10 there.

11 Q Did you ever see or treat this
12 patient at , across the street?

13 MR. : See or treat?

14 Q Did you see the patient at
15 after ?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And tell me how that came
18 about?

19 A I saw the patient Sunday
20 morning, after completing my rounds,
21 across the street.

22 Q Were there patients that you
23 were responsible for at ?

24 A No.

25 Q When you say ---I want to be

1

2 clear, Doctor.

3 A Sure.

4 Q You have no privileges at

5 ; correct?

6 A Correct.

7 Q And when you say you saw her
8 Sunday morning, was this a social visit

9 or was this as a treating physician?

10 A I was following up on how the
11 patient was doing.

12 Q And when you say that you don't
13 have privileges, am I correct that you
14 cannot render medical care to a patient
15 at ?

16 A Correct.

17 Q And when you went over to see
18 the patient Sunday morning, did you go
19 with anyone?

20 A Sunday morning?

21 Q Yes.

22 A No.

23 Q And did you see the patient on
24 Sunday morning?

25 A I did.

1

2 Q Tell me about what you observed
3 and any discussions you had?

4 A Overall the patient looked much
5 improved from the previous night. She
6 was alert and oriented. She was
7 speaking. As best as I can remember, her
8 cardiac symptoms had abated and overall
9 she was much improved.

10 Q Had you spoken to any physician
11 who was treating her at that
12 Sunday morning?

13 A I don't recall.

14 Q Now, these observations, did
15 you make a note of those observations in
16 any chart for this patient?

17 A No.

18 Q Is that something you remember
19 as you sit here now?

20 A Are you asking if I remember
21 not writing a note?

22 Q No.

23 MR. : You mean when he
24 told you how she appeared, is that
25 something he remembers?

1

2 MR. OGINSKI: Yes.

3 A Yes.

4 Q Was the patient's husband
5 present at the time you went to visit
6 her?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Was any other family member
9 present at that time?

10 A Not that I recall.

11 Q Did you do any type of physical
12 examination of the patient on Sunday
13 morning at ?

14 A I examined her abdomen.

15 Q How did you do that?

16 A Can you rephrase the question?

17 Q Sure. When you say you
18 examined the abdomen, tell me what you
19 mean?

20 MR. : You want to know
21 how he actually does the exam?

22 Q No. Did you look at it from
23 afar or did you actually take off the
24 dressing or bandage?

25 MR. : Why don't you ask

1

2 him --

3 Q What did you do when you say
4 you did an examination?

5 A I laid my hands on her abdomen,
6 felt to see how her abdomen felt. I
7 examined her wound.

8 Q Was there any dressing on her
9 abdomen?

10 A There was a dressing over the
11 surgery site.

12 Q Did you remove the dressing?

13 A Yes.

14 Q What did you observe?

15 A Overall, the wound looked good.
16 There was some slothing, but she had no
17 tenderness, no rebound, no guarding and,
18 again, overall she looked much improved.

19 Q And the improvement reflected
20 what, in comparison to what?

21 A In comparison to the previous
22 night, where she was complaining of chest
23 pain, having low blood pressure, having a
24 high heart rate.

25 Q Now, did you relay your

1

2 findings after your examination to Dr.

3 ?

4 A I don't recall speaking with
5 Dr. , but it would be my custom to
6 relay findings of our attending patients
7 to them.

8 Q Did you relay your finding of
9 your examination to any other physician
10 at ?

11 MR. : At ?

12 MR. OGINSKI: Yes.

13 A I don't recall.

14 Q Was any other physician present
15 in the room with you at the time of your
16 examination?

17 A I don't recall.

18 Q Did you have any conversation
19 with any physician at , about
20 your examination and your findings on
21 that Sunday morning?

22 A I don't recall.

23 MR. : Other than perhaps

24 Dr. ?

25 MR. OGINSKI: Yes.

1

2 A No.

3 Q I'm sorry, I may have asked
4 this.

5 Did you make a note of any of
6 those physical examination findings in
7 the patient's chart, the chart?

8 MR. : You did ask, but
9 answer it again.

10 A No.

11 Q Is there a reason why you did
12 not make a note of your examination in
13 the patient's chart?

14 A This patient had been admitted
15 to . I don't have privileges. So
16 there was nowhere for me to write a note
17 in .

18 Q I meant in ?

19 A I don't believe her chart was
20 still available at .

21 Q At that time in
22 of , did you have computerized notes
23 or were they still handwritten?

24 A Which notes?

25 Q At .

1

2 A Which notes?

3 Q Any notes.

4 A Some notes are computerized;

5 some are handwritten.

6 Q Just tell me briefly which is

7 which?

8 A So clinic visits, initial

9 consultations and progress notes the

10 attendings do, are dictated and

11 transcribed into the computer. Our daily

12 notes are written on paper.

13 Q Did you see this patient again

14 after that Sunday morning visit at

15 ?

16 A I did.

17 Q When did you next see her?

18 A Sometime in the evening.

19 Q And the first time you saw her

20 on Sunday was in the morning; correct?

21 A Correct.

22 Q And evening, did you go with

23 anyone?

24 A I did.

25 Q Who?

1

2 A Dr. .

3 Q And tell me who was present

4 with the patient at the time that you and

5 Dr. went?

6 A I don't recall who was in the

7 room with her.

8 Q And tell me about the

9 conversation that you were present for?

10 A Conversation with who?

11 Q With the patient?

12 MR. : Was there any

13 conversation with the patient?

14 A I don't recall a conversation

15 with the patient.

16 Q What was the purpose of going

17 with Dr. to see the patient that

18 Sunday evening?

19 A To again follow-up on how the

20 patient was doing.

21 Q And as far as you know, did Dr.

22 have privileges to see and treat

23 patients at ?

24 A I do not know.

25 Q Did you perform a physical

1

2 examination that Sunday evening?

3 A No.

4 Q Did Dr. perform a

5 physical examination on the patient that

6 Sunday evening?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Tell me what you observed Dr.

9 do?

10 A Dr. performed an

11 abdominal exam.

12 Q Tell me specifically what he

13 did.

14 A He put his hands on the patient

15 and examined her.

16 Q And what were his findings?

17 A I don't recall.

18 Q Did he tell you what his

19 findings were?

20 A I don't recall.

21 Q Did he make any comments to you

22 during the course of his examination?

23 A I don't recall.

24 Q By the way, that visit that you

25 told me about earlier in the morning,

1
2 where you examined the patient, how long
3 did your visit last?

4 A Total visit was probably less
5 than ten minutes.

6 Q And in the evening when you
7 went with Dr. , how long was that
8 visit?

9 A I don't recall how long. We
10 were there for well over an hour.

11 Q What were you doing during that
12 time?

13 A When we initially arrived, Dr.
14 examined the patient at that time.
15 Her condition had changed from the
16 morning.

17 Q How?

18 A She had developed some
19 respiratory distress and so we were
20 concerned for her worsening condition.

21 Q What was the thinking at that
22 time, as to why she had this respiratory
23 distress?

24 A We were concerned at that time
25 for a possible intraabdominal process.

1

2 Q Tell me what you mean by that?

3 A Either an intraabdominal
4 abscess or infection, in her case, a
5 possible anastomotic leak.

6 Q What led you to believe that
7 possibility might be a cause of
8 respiratory distress?

9 A The patient appeared septic at
10 that time.

11 Q And what is it about her
12 condition that gave you the impression
13 that she was septic at that time?

14 A Again, she was having some
15 issues with respiratory distress. I
16 believe she was febrile.

17 Q Anything else?

18 A That's all I can recall.

19 Q While you were there with Dr.
20 , was any other physician from
21 present?

22 A Well, she was in the cardiac
23 care unit so --

24 Q Did any conversation between
25 you and Dr. take place in the

1

2 presence of any physician from ?

3 A I don't recall specifics, but
4 we discussed her case with the team
5 manager in the cardiac care. Later on we
6 discussed her case with the general
7 surgery consults at .

8 Q Tell me what you recall about
9 the conversation with the team manager in
10 the cardiac care unit?

11 A I don't recall specifics, but
12 in general, we were concerned that her
13 condition had deteriorated.

14 Q Now, I'm sorry, you mentioned
15 that there was a possibility of an
16 intraabdominal process or intraabdominal
17 leak and there was one other thing you
18 mentioned?

19 MR. : He said abscess,
20 infection, leak, I believe.

21 Q And tell me what you remember
22 of the conversation discussing the
23 possibility of surgery?

24 A I don't recall a specific
25 conversation with the primary team, as

1
2 far as surgery. At that time, we were
3 concerned of an intraabdominal process,
4 so we wanted a surgical consult to
5 evaluate the patient.

6 Q Do you know Dr.

7 A I do not.

8 Q Were you present when a
9 surgical consult came in to evaluate the
10 patient?

11 A I was present when the resident
12 arrived.

13 Q Did you have any conversation
14 with the surgical resident?

15 A I did.

16 Q Tell me about that?

17 A I don't recall specifics, but I
18 presented the case to him, gave him her
19 pertinent history and explained we were
20 calling for a possible intraabdominal
21 process.

22 Q Did you observe the resident
23 examine the patient?

24 A I did not observe him, but I
25 know he went to go examine the patient.

1

2 Q Did you have a conversation
3 with that surgical resident after the
4 examination?

5 A I don't recall.

6 Q Did Dr. have a
7 conversation with the surgical resident?

8 A I don't recall.

9 Q Before leaving the hospital
10 that Sunday evening, what was your
11 understanding as to the plan of treatment
12 that this patient would have at that
13 time?

14 MR. : I'm just unclear
15 on one thing. Were you present
16 throughout the exam with the
17 resident?

18 THE WITNESS: No.

19 Q Other than calling for a
20 surgical consult and the discussions you
21 told me about, but don't exactly
22 remember, what was the plan at the time
23 that you left?

24 MS. : Objection, if you
25 know.

1

2 MR. : I think he left

3 before the resident.

4 A The plan at the time that I
5 left was for surgical consultation, which
6 was being performed, and for a possible
7 CT scan.

8 Q Did you have any discussions
9 with the patient's husband before you
10 left that evening?

11 A We actually met the patient's
12 husband when we arrived outside in the
13 waiting room.

14 Q And did you and Dr. have
15 a conversation with the patient's
16 husband?

17 A We spoke with him briefly.

18 Q And do you remember what was
19 said?

20 A I don't recall specifics, but
21 in general, he said that her condition
22 had deteriorated.

23 Q Did Dr. offer any
24 opinions or thoughts as to why her
25 condition had deteriorated at that time?

1

2 A I don't recall.

3 Q Now, is there any note that you
4 have regarding the events that transpired
5 at on the Sunday evening that you
6 just told me about?

7 A No.

8 Q In your review of the patient's
9 chart, did you see any notes by Dr.
10 of this particular visit on Sunday
11 evening at ?

12 A No.

13 Q Now, on post-op day one, on
14 , was the patient receiving
15 PCA?

16 A I believe she was.

17 Q What is PCA?

18 A It's a patient controlled
19 analgesia.

20 Q Is that where the patient can
21 press a button to deliver analgesics?

22 A Correct, for pain control.

23 Q In addition to PCA, do patients
24 typically also get some type of oral or
25 I.V. analgesics as well?

1

2 A The PCA is an I.V.
3 administration and patients are usually
4 not advanced to PO pain medicine until
5 they can tolerate PO diets.

6 Q What type of medicine is
7 usually contained within the PCA?

8 A We can use Fentanyl, Dilaudid,
9 Morphine.

10 Q Am I correct those medications
11 are more powerful than the oral
12 analgesics?

13 A No.

14 Q Now, going back to post-op day
15 number one on 1st, you examined
16 this patient; correct, at some point
17 during your rounds in the morning?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And --

20 MR. : Can he look at the
21 chart now?

22 MR. OGINSKI: Not yet. We're
23 getting there. I'm going to go
24 through it all.

25 MR. : Let me just say,

1
2 if there comes a point where the
3 doctor feels he needs to look at the
4 chart, he should be entitled to look
5 at the chart.

6 MR. OGINSKI: No problem.

7 Q When you saw the patient in the
8 afternoon or the late evening of
9 Saturday, 1st, did you also
10 examine the patient's abdomen at that
11 time?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Now, had the patient made any
14 complaints to you about abdominal pain,
15 either in the morning or in the
16 afternoon?

17 A No.

18 Q Did you observe any guarding
19 during your examination?

20 A Which examination?

21 Q Of the patient's abdomen,
22 either in the morning or the afternoon?

23 A No.

24 Q Did you observe any complaints
25 of tenderness when you palpated the

1

2 patient's abdomen?

3 A No tenderness, that wouldn't be
4 expected for a postsurgical patient, so
5 no.

6 Q When the patient is receiving
7 PCA, would you expect them to have
8 complaints of abdominal pain post-op day
9 one?

10 A They may.

11 Q And tell me what you mean by,
12 they may?

13 A Some patients who are on PCA
14 after surgery, can experience abdominal
15 discomfort, yes.

16 Q And there are patients who
17 would not experience it because the PCA
18 might mask that pain; right?

19 A The PCA might mask the pain.
20 They may have a high threshold. They may
21 not have had a very invasive surgery.

22 Q Do you know Dr. _____,
23 _____?

24 A No.

25 Q Did you ever speak with Dr. _____?

1

2 about this patient?

3 A No.

4 Q After the Sunday evening of

5 , did you ever see this

6 patient again?

7 A No.

8 Q Did you ever learn that this

9 patient was taken back to the operating

10 room at some point after 2nd?

11 A I learned she was taken back to

12 the operating room, yes.

13 Q From whom did you learn that?

14 A Dr. .

15 Q When did you learn that?

16 A I don't recall. Sometime

17 Monday.

18 Q And did Dr. tell you why

19 she went back to the operating room?

20 A I don't recall.

21 Q Did you learn from him that the

22 patient had an exploratory laparotomy?

23 A I recall that the patient was

24 taken back to the operating room and she

25 was found to have a leak at the staple

1

2 line.

3 Q What did that mean to you?

4 MR. : Object to the
5 form. She had a leak at the staple
6 line, I'm not sure what more you want
7 him to say.

8 Q What did you understand that to
9 be?

10 MR. : I still don't
11 understand what you are asking.

12 Q Did Dr. tell you there
13 was a leak at the staple line, that that
14 was the findings intraoperatively?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Did you have a discussion with
17 him about that finding?

18 A No.

19 Q Did he tell you how that came
20 about?

21 A I don't recall.

22 Q Did you ask any questions about
23 how this patient developed a leak at the
24 staple line?

25 A I did not.

1

2 Q Did you have any conversation
3 with any other physician about this
4 particular operative finding?

5 A Not that I recall.

6 Q When you learned that the
7 patient had a leak at the staple line,
8 did you form any opinion in your mind, as
9 to whether that leak was responsible for
10 the patient's cardiac event that you had
11 observed on ?

12 MR. : What was your
13 view?

14 A Can you rephrase the question?

15 Q Sure. When Dr. told you
16 that the patient went back to the
17 operating room and they found a leak at
18 the staple line, did you then, in your
19 own mind, have an opinion that the
20 patient's problems that she exhibited on
21 1st, were in anyway related to
22 this leak?

23 MR. : Cardiac problems?

24 MR. OGINSKI: Correct.

25 A No.

1

2 Q Did Dr. have any
3 discussion with you about whether this
4 particular leak caused or contributed to
5 her cardiac condition?

6 A I don't recall.

7 Q Did you have a conversation
8 with Dr. about how the leakage
9 occurred?

10 A No.

11 Q Or what caused this particular
12 leakage?

13 A I don't recall.

14 Q Did you have a conversation
15 with any physician about why the staple
16 line broke down and caused the leakage?

17 A I do not recall.

18 Q Were you present for any
19 conference at , where
20 this patient's condition was discussed,
21 following, at some point after

22 1, ?

23 A I do not recall.

24 Q Were you ever asked to present
25 any information about this particular

1

2 patient to any group of physicians at

3 after 1, ?

4 A No.

5 Q Were you ever present for any
6 mortality and morbidity conference, where
7 this patient's treatment was discussed?

8 A I do not recall.

9 Q Other than learning from Dr.
10 the intraoperative findings from
11 , did you speak to any physician
12 at about the patient's operative
13 findings?

14 A No.

15 Q When did you learn that this
16 patient died?

17 A I don't recall.

18 Q How did you learn that the
19 patient died?

20 A I don't recall.

21 Q Let's take a look please at the
22 notes you have for this patient.

23 MR. : Do we need to take
24 a two-minute break before we do that?

25 MR. OGINSKI: Go right ahead.

1

2 [At this time, a short recess
3 was taken.]

4 MR. : Okay, so find your
5 first note.

6 A Okay.

7 Q Doctor, can you read your note
8 please in its entirety and if there is an
9 abbreviation, tell me what it represents?

10 MR. : Don't go too fast
11 and start with the date.

12 A " 1, , 7:20 a.m.,
13 gynecology fellow. year old status
14 post an exploratory laparotomy, elective
15 hernia repair, lysis of adhesion,
16 enterotomy with a reanastomosis.
17 Postoperative day one, without
18 complaints, no nausea or vomiting, pain
19 well controlled. Vital signs, maximum
20 temperature, 37.2 Celsius; blood
21 pressure, 98 over 58; heart rate, 78 to
22 88."

23 Q Let me stop you, Doctor. Those
24 vital signs, would you consider them to
25 be normal?

1

2 A The blood pressure is a little
3 bit on the lower side, but overall
4 they're acceptable.

5 Q Go ahead, please.

6 A "Input 2,000 milliliters over
7 16 hours, output 600 milliliters over
8 16 hours from the Foley."

9 Q That represents kidney
10 function?

11 A Urine output, yes.

12 Q Is that within normal range for
13 a postoperative patient?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Go ahead, please.

16 A "Left Jackson-Pratt, 40 ml's;
17 right Jackson-Pratt, five ml's. Cardiac,
18 regular rate and rhythm, S-1 and S-2.
19 Lungs, clear to auscultation bilaterally.
20 Abdomen, soft, no bowel sounds
21 non-tender. The wound is clean, dry and
22 intact. The extremities, no clubbing,
23 edema or cyanosis. Continue routine
24 postoperative care, ."

25 Q Let's turn please to your next

1

2 note.

3 A Okay.

4 Q Same thing, Doctor.

5 A Sure. " 1, ,

6 8:30 p.m., gynecology fellow. year

7 old with a history of ovarian cancer,

8 status post exploratory laparotomy,

9 hernia repair, reanastomosis. On p.m.

10 rounds, was complaining of chest pain.

11 Upon further investigation, the patient

12 complained of inability to take a deep

13 breath secondary to pain, cardiac

14 palpitations, but denies nausea or

15 vomiting. Review of the vital signs at

16 that time revealed blood pressure, 119

17 over 71, with a heart rate of 116."

18 Q Let me stop you. When you say

19 "review of vitals at that time," are you

20 able to tell me from your note, which

21 time you refer to?

22 A This would have been at the

23 time of rounds.

24 Q Which was approximately when?

25 A This note looks to be a summary

1
2 note after I had already consulted
3 cardiology, the rapid response team and
4 the medical team. So this would have
5 been sometime after the actual rounds.

6 Q Go ahead.

7 A "Stat EKG was ordered. EKG was
8 compared to preoperative and evidence of
9 tachycardia and ST segment changes. At
10 that time, medicine consult was ordered.
11 Stat labs, including troponin, were sent.
12 Please refer to medicine consult for
13 presentations. Medicine consult, Dr.
14 , contacted the rapid
15 response team and cardiology attending,
16 Dr. , for suspected acute cardiac
17 event. Patient was given aspirin, I.V.
18 fluid bolus and oxygen. Presently the
19 patient states she feels better, in
20 quotations. We are waiting cardiac
21 workup, ICU fellow evaluation for
22 possible transfer versus transfer to the
23 cardiac care unit at , per Dr.
24 . The findings and plans have
25 been discussed with the patient and her

1
2 husband, who understand and agree. Case
3 discussed with Dr. , ."

4 Q Did you personally review the
5 patient's EKGs?

6 A I would have reviewed the EKGs
7 with the medicine resident, yes.

8 Q And the vital signs that you
9 refer to in this note, timed at
10 8:30 p.m., did that reflect evidence of
11 hypotension?

12 A Hypotension?

13 Q Yes.

14 A No.

15 Q Can you turn please to the
16 order sheets for 1st?

17 A Okay.

18 Q Now, the first order at the
19 top, this says page 15 of 23, do you see
20 that?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Under surgical procedure, it
23 says "open resection/tumor debulking," do
24 you see that?

25 A Yes.

1

2 Q Am I correct this was not a
3 tumor debulking the day before?

4 MR. : Objection.

5 A I wasn't present at the time of
6 surgery.

7 Q Was it your understanding that
8 this patient had a tumor debulking?

9 A It's not my understanding she
10 had a tumor debulking.

11 Q Can you explain how the words
12 tumor debulking, appears by you?

13 A This is an automated order from
14 the computer that gets filled out. I
15 don't put in that information.

16 Q What information do you put in?

17 A I would just put in the actual
18 order.

19 Q And on this page, what actual
20 orders did you put in?

21 A That first order appears to be
22 an order for the postoperative pulmonary
23 program. This is essentially for
24 respiratory therapy to work with the
25 patient. Do you want me to go all the

1

2 way down?

3 Q No. I would like you to turn,

4 please, the 1st order by Dr.

5 , page 18 of 23?

6 A Okay.

7 Q At the top reflects an order

8 for extended release, is that Metoprolol?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And towards the bottom of the

11 page, there is an order by you for

12 Metoprolol injection I.V. push, do you

13 see that?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Why did you order Metoprolol

16 I.V. push?

17 A To the best of my recollection,

18 this would have been based on the

19 recommendations of the medicine resident.

20 Q What is the reason to

21 administer an I.V. push Metoprolol, as

22 opposed to oral Metoprolol?

23 A This order is dated at 6:26, so

24 at that time, this would have been for

25 acute control of heart rate.

1

2 Q I'm sorry, I didn't understand.

3 A For acute control of heart

4 rate.

5 Q This is after her condition

6 became evident with the chest discomfort?

7 A Yes, correct.

8 Q Would you turn to the next page

9 please, page 19 of 23 in the order

10 sheets?

11 A Yes.

12 Q At the top there appears to be

13 another order for ECG?

14 A Okay.

15 Q Electrocardiogram?

16 A Correct.

17 Q Primary diagnosis, do you see

18 that?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Was it your understanding that

21 this patient had a malignant neoplasm?

22 A This patient's primary

23 diagnosis is ovarian neoplasm, yes.

24 Q What is malignant neoplasm?

25 A Ovarian cancer.

1

2 Q Were you aware the patient was
3 treated for ovarian cancer years earlier
4 by Dr.

5 A Correct.

6 Q Were you also aware that there
7 was no evidence of any active ovarian
8 cancer at the time that she had her
9 surgery on

10 A Once a patient gets the
11 diagnosis ovarian cancer, it's carried
12 through for the rest of her time at
13 . So her primary diagnosis will
14 be and continues to be ovarian cancer.

15 Q If you go down to the bottom,
16 there is a note by Dr.

17 A Okay.

18 Q Timed at 7:10 and under primary
19 diagnosis it says "adrenal cancer," do
20 you see that?

21 A Okay.

22 Q Do you have any knowledge or
23 understanding as to why the words adrenal
24 cancer appear in here?

25 A Are you asking me why Dr.

1

2 put in an order with adrenal cancer?

3 Q My mistake. Did this patient

4 have adrenal cancer?

5 A Not to my knowledge.

6 Q Do you have any knowledge or

7 understanding as to why the words adrenal

8 cancer appear in this order sheet?

9 A I do not.

10 Q Do you have any other notes for

11 this patient?

12 A I do not.

13 Q Have you spoken with any

14 physician about this particular patient

15 and this lawsuit?

16 A I have not.

17 Q Have you spoken with Dr.

18 about this case?

19 A I have not.

20 Q Did you review any deposition

21 testimony that has been given in this

22 case?

23 A I have not.

24 Q Did you review any medical

25 literature in preparation for coming

1

2 today?

3 A I have not.

4 Q What are ST segment changes on
5 an EKG?

6 A ST segment changes on an EKG
7 can be attributed to a change of electric
8 conduction of the heart.

9 Q What are T-wave inversions?

10 A This also can be a change in
11 the conduction of the heart. Some are
12 physiologic and some are not.

13 Q You told me that you had a
14 conversation with the cardiologist, Dr.
15 , when discussing whether the
16 patient should be transferred to .

17 Was that one discussion or more
18 than one?

19 A We spoke with Dr. a few
20 times on that evening.

21 Q After the patient had been
22 transferred to , did you ever have
23 more conversations with her about this
24 patient?

25 A I did not.

1

2 Q After you learned that the
3 patient died, did you have any
4 conversation with Dr. about this
5 patient?

6 A I did not.

7 Q After the patient died, did you
8 have a conversation with Dr. ?

9 A No.

10 Q Or with Dr. ?

11 A No.

12 Q Or Dr. ?

13 A No.

14 Q When you treated this patient
15 on 1st, post-op day number one,
16 was there evidence of any abnormality in
17 her white blood count?

18 A As I recall, her white blood
19 cell count was a little bit low on
20 postoperative day one.

21 Q What was the significance of
22 that to you?

23 A Patients, after surgery, often
24 times have an increase in their white
25 blood cell count. The white blood cells

1
2 are raised by the trauma caused by
3 surgery in a patient who had chemotherapy
4 before. Once the white blood cell counts
5 are consumed, it wouldn't be unreasonable
6 for her to lack the reserve to replenish
7 the counts.

8 Q Would that be true if her
9 chemotherapy had occurred years prior?

10 A Potentially.

11 Q Was there any other possible
12 reason to explain this slightly low white
13 blood count on post-op day number one?

14 MR. : I'll object to the
15 form. He's not here to explain any
16 possible reason.

17 Q Did you consider any other
18 possibility to explain the reason why her
19 white blood count was slightly low on
20 post-op day number one?

21 A Based on her overall clinical
22 picture, it was my clinical judgment that
23 the slight drop in her white blood cell
24 count was acceptable for someone with her
25 clinical history.

1

2 Q If a patient has an infection,
3 would the white blood count decrease or
4 increase?

5 A Usually with an infection, it
6 will increase.

7 Q And the difference I want you
8 to assume, that the patient's white blood
9 count preoperatively was 8,000 and
10 postoperatively was 2,000 --

11 MR. : Excuse me, was
12 11,000. It was elevated
13 postoperatively.

14 MR. OGINSKI: Then I apologize,
15 I'm sorry.

16 MR. : That's okay.

17 Q In the reading, following
18 counsel's recitation -- withdrawn.

19 Let's go to her labs, please?

20 A Do you have a page number?

21 Q It says page one.

22 A Okay.

23 Q Looking at the patient's
24 hematology results, I want you to assume
25 that preoperatively, her white blood

1

2 count was 8,000?

3 A Okay.

4 Q And we see in this report, that

5 on at 13:36, her white

6 blood count is reported as 11.3?

7 A Okay.

8 Q Is that within normal range?

9 A Is this within normal range for
10 a postoperative patient?

11 Q Yes.

12 A Again, postoperatively,
13 patients' white blood counts can be
14 elevated, yes.

15 Q Now, the following day, on
16 1st, there are two values for
17 white blood count timed at 11:48 and
18 that's reported as 2.6?

19 A Uh-huh.

20 Q And that's the one you are
21 referring to as being low?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And again, later that day, at
24 20:09, the white blood count is reported
25 as 3.6?

1

2 A Correct.

3 Q And again, this is also low?

4 A Correct.

5 Q To what, if anything, did you
6 attribute these white blood counts and
7 the difference between what it was
8 postoperatively and the day after?

9 MR. : Just note my
10 objection. I think he answered that.

11 Now seeing the labs, does that
12 change your answer?

13 A No, it confirms my answer.

14 Q Now, the hemoglobin as well, is
15 there any significance to the hemoglobin
16 reading done on and also
17 and whether they correlate
18 with the white blood count?

19 MR. : That's two
20 questions, but why don't you answer
21 of what significance were the
22 hemoglobin counts to you.

23 MR. OGINSKI: Fair enough.

24 A What is the question, I'm
25 sorry?

1

2 MR. : Were these
3 significant in any way, shape or
4 form, the hemoglobin values.

5 A Her hemoglobin is stable. It's
6 within normal range.

7 Q If this patient had some type
8 of infection on post-op day number one,
9 what would you expect to see in the lab
10 results?

11 MR. : Again, this is
12 speculative. You mean, what in
13 general, would you see? I think he
14 answered that. Go ahead.

15 A Patients with infection can
16 sometimes present with an elevated white
17 blood cell count.

18 Q And other times?

19 A Most times patients present
20 with an elevation of the white blood
21 count. It's an indication of infection.

22 Q Now, you told me that when you
23 visited the patient in the evening of
24 2nd, Sunday evening, that you
25 felt that the patient was septic?

1

2 MR. : Right, and he gave
3 you the reasons.

4 MR. OGINSKI: Right.

5 Q Did you review the patient's
6 laboratory results at when you
7 saw her that Sunday evening?

8 A I don't recall.

9 Q Other than your observing
10 respiratory distress and that she was
11 febrile, did you learn from anybody that
12 her laboratory results were abnormal and
13 suggested evidence of infection?

14 A I don't recall.

15 Q At the time that you saw her
16 Sunday evening, was she receiving any
17 type of oxygen?

18 A I don't recall.

19 Q Was she able to speak?

20 A I don't recall, but I believe
21 either upon our arrival or shortly
22 thereafter, the patient was intubated,
23 but I don't recall.

24 Q When you saw her in the morning
25 on Sunday, had she been intubated?

1

2 A Sunday morning?

3 Q Yes.

4 A No.

5 Q Where did you go to medical
6 school, Doctor?

7 A .

8 Q When did you graduate?

9 A

10 Q Did you go directly into your
11 residency?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Which you said you finished in
14 correct?

15 A Correct.

16 Q And from there, did you go
17 directly to ?

18 A Correct.

19 Q When you return back to the
20 , that would be in the
21 division of GYN oncology?

22 A Correct.

23 Q Are you licensed to practice
24 medicine in the State of New York?

25 A Yes.

1

2 Q Are you licensed in any other
3 state?

4 A I don't know if my license in
5 is still active or not.

6 Q Has your license in New York
7 ever been suspended?

8 A No.

9 Q Has your license ever been
10 revoked?

11 A No.

12 Q Do you have any publications?

13 A Yes.

14 Q How many?

15 A Seven, eight, I don't recall.

16 Q Do you perform GYN surgery?

17 A Yes.

18 Q As well as GYN oncology
19 surgery?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Did you ever have any
22 discussion with any of the residents at
23 , about the sequence of events
24 that occurred to this patient after --

25 A No.

1

2 MR. : Let him finish.

3 A I apologize.

4 Q After the patient had died, did

5 you ever have any discussion with any of

6 the GYN residents at about the

7 treatment she received?

8 A No.

9 Q Did you ever learn what the

10 patient's cause of death was?

11 A No.

12 Q Did Dr. tell you that

13 the patient died of overwhelming sepsis?

14 A I never learned the patient's

15 cause of death, so no.

16 Q Did you ever participate in an

17 elective hernia repair with Dr. ?

18 A Not that I recall.

19 Q Have you ever performed surgery

20 with Dr. ?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Do you still see and treat

23 patients of Dr. 's at ?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Did you ever speak to any

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medical examiner about this patient?

A No.

MR. OGINSKI: Thank you,
Doctor.

MS. : I have no
questions.

(Time noted: 1:50 p.m.)

, M.D.

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this day of , .

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2	EXAMINATION BY	PAGE
3	MR. OGINSKI	4
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, _____, a Shorthand
Reporter and a Notary Public, do hereby
certify that the foregoing witness, was
duly sworn on the date indicated, and
that the foregoing is a true and accurate
transcription of my stenographic notes.

I further certify that I am not
employed by nor related to any party to
this action.
