

Doc 1  
68

1                   IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

2                   CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO

3           TRAVIS CATES, et al.,

4                   Plaintiffs,

5           -vs-

JUDGE J. McMANAMON  
CASE NO. 167835

6           CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN  
7           GENERAL HOSPITAL, et al.,

8                   Defendants.

9                   - - - -

10           Deposition of RICHARD BLINKHORN, JR., M.D.,  
11           taken as if upon cross-examination before Aneta  
12           I. Fine, a Registered Professional Reporter and  
13           Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio,  
14           at the MetroHealth System, 3395 Scranton Road,  
15           Cleveland, Ohio, at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday,  
16           January 4, 1990, pursuant to notice and/or  
17           stipulations of counsel, on behalf of the  
18           Plaintiffs in this cause.

19                   - - - -

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and

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On behalf of the Defendant,  
MetroHealth System and  
Richard Blinkhorn, Jr., M.D.;

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On behalf of the Defendant,  
Mary-Blair Matejczyk, M.D.;

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Donna LeCair

- - - -

1                    RICHARD BLINKHORN, JR., M.D., of lawful  
2                    age, called by the Plaintiffs for the purpose of  
3                    cross-examination, as provided by the **Rules** of  
4                    Civil Procedure, being by **me** first duly sworn,  
5                    as hereinafter certified, deposed and said as  
                  follows:

7                    CROSS-EXAMINATION OF

8                    RICHARD BLINKHORN, JR., M.D.

9                    BY MR. KAMPINSKI:

10          Q.      Would you state your full name, please?

11          A.      Richard John Blinkhorn, Jr.

12          Q.      Spell it.

13          A.      B L I N K H O R N .

14          Q.      I'm sorry, H?

15          A.      O R N .

16          Q.      Jr.?

17          A.      Yes.

                Q.      Where do you live?

19          A.      2844 Woodhaven Drive, Medina, 44256.

20          Q.      I'm going to ask you a number of questions this  
21                    morning. If you don't understand any of them,  
22                    please tell me, I will be happy to rephrase any  
23                    question *you* don't understand. When you respond  
24                    to my questions please do so verbally. She's  
25                    going to take down everything that's said, she

1           can't take down a nod of your head, okay?

2   A.   **Yes.**

3   Q.   How old are you?

4   A.   33.

5   Q.   You are a physician?

6   A.   Yes.

7   Q.   And if you would, sun me through your  
8           educational background starting with college?

9   A.   I went to Davidson College.

10  Q.   Where is that at?

11  A.   **It's** in Davidson, North Carolina.

12  Q.   When did you go there?

13  A.   1974 through 1978.

14  Q.   All right. And what degree did you receive'?

15  A.   BS in chemistry.

16  Q.   Okay. What did you do after that?

17  A.   I went to medical school.

18  Q.   Where at?

19  A.   Bowman-Gray, Winston.

20  Q.   Spell it.

21  A.   Bowman, B O W M A N - Gray. That's in  
22       Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

23  Q.   Okay. And how long did you go to school there?

24  A.   I was there from 1978 to 1982.

25  Q.   When did you graduate from high school, by the

1 way?

2 A. '74.

3 Q. All right. So you went straight from high  
4 school, went to college, to medical school?

5 A. Right.

6 Q. Okay. Did you receive your M.D. degree then  
7 from Bowman-Gray?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What did you do after that?

10 A. I started my internship.

11 Q. Where at?

12 A. Cleveland Metro.

13 Q. When did you start there?

14 A. 1982.

15 Q. All right. Directly from medical school to  
16 Cleveland Metro?

17 A. (Indicating).

18 Q. And your internship lasted how long?

19 A. One year. '82 to '83.

20 Q. Okay. Did you specialize in anything in that  
21 year?

22 A. In that year?

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. Internal medicine.

25 Q. Okay. What did you do after that?

1 A. I did two years of residency to complete the  
2 residency program.

3 Q. Here?

4 A. I did a year of --

5 Q. Here at Cleveland Metro?

4 A. Yes.

7 Q. Have you been here since '82?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Go ahead. Two years of residency?

10 A. Then I was the chief resident of medicine. Then  
11 I did two years of infectious disease fellowship  
12 and then I joined the staff.

13 Q. And when was that?

14 A. July of 1988.

15 Q. Okay. And your position now would be what, just  
16 a staff --

17 A. Staff physician.

18 Q. And are you an employee of Cleveland Metro'?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And I take it you were during the time you saw  
21 Mr. Cates?

22 A. Yes.

25 Q. When were you Boarded?

1 A. It was during my chief resident year so that's  
2 the '85, '86 academic year.

3 Q. Okay. Was that the first time you were  
4 eligible? Did you pass it?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do you intend or have you taken the infectious  
7 disease Boards?

8 A. Not as yet.

9 Q. When do you become eligible or are you eligible?

10 A. Well, I'm eligible as soon as my fellowship is  
11 completed. I'm eligible now.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. It's only given every two years.

14 Q. Okay. Are you saying you did not have an  
15 opportunity to take it prior to this time?

16 A. Right.

17 Q. Okay. You finished your residency in '86.

18 A. I finished my residency in '85 and then I was  
19 the chief resident from '85 to '86.

20 Q. Okay. And you say you are eligible one year  
21 after your residency is completed?

22 A. I took my internal medicine Boards my chief  
23 resident year.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Which was given every year.

1 Q. All right.

2 A. And then I completed my infectious disease  
3 fellowship the year I came on staff, July of  
4 '88.

5 Q. Okay. So the first opportunity you would have  
6 to take the internal, I'm sorry, infectious  
7 disease Boards would be in 1990?

8 A. There may have been a test administered soon  
9 after I finished my fellowship but I didn't sit  
10 for that.

11 Q. Okay. All right. What is infectious disease,  
12 Doctor? What does the specialty of infectious  
13 disease deal with?

14 A. It deals with the pathology of infections and  
15 how they relate to the body.

16 Q. Now, do you have private patients that you see  
17 here or are you called in on consults for other  
18 physicians or how does that -- or is it both?

19 A. I do both.

20 MR. ZELLERS: Chuck, are we talking  
21 about now or back in 19 -- early '88?

22 Q. Well, if there is a difference tell me what the  
23 difference is.

24 A. Before I came on staff I had no private  
25 patients, I did consultation work.



1 Q. Okay.

2 A. And **then** when I joined **the staff** in July of '88  
3 I then had private patients of my own.

4 Q. Okay. But you still do consultation?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Okay. What is your relationship to the other  
7 infectious disease physician in **this** case,  
8 Dr. Bender?

9 MR. ZELLERS: Bender.

10 Q. Were you both --

11 A. At the time of this case she was the first year  
12 infectious disease fellow and I was the second  
13 year fellow.

14 Q. When you say at the time of this case, are you  
15 talking now about late '87?

15 A. Right. '87, '88.

17 Q. She was the first year infectious disease  
18 fellow?

19 A. Yes.

21 infectious disease at that time?

22 A. Two.

23 Q. Just yourself and her?  
24

A. (Indicating).

25 You have to answer verbally.

Q.

1 A. Yes. I'm sorry.

2 Q. How is it that one of you would see any given  
3 patient? Would it be whoever was on call at the  
4 time or would you be assigned in a rotational  
5 order or how did that work?

6 A. In that year the way it worked was the first  
7 year fellow was on the inpatient consultation  
8 service from July through November.

9 Q. Explain that to me.

10 A. And the second year --

11 Q. I --

12 A. The second year fellow then took over the  
13 consultation service from December through

14 do from July to November?

15 A. Rest. Research work.

16

17 first year fellow was on consult from what  
18 months?

19 A. July through the end of November.

20 would have only started being a fellow in July?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. All right. Who trains the fellows?

- 1 A. The attendings.
- 2 Q. When you say the attending are you talking about  
3 an attending infectious disease specialist or if  
4 it's an orthopedic patient an attending ortho?
- 5 A. The infectious disease attending staff is  
6 responsible for the instruction of their  
7 fellows.
- 8 Q. Okay. There's then an infectious disease  
9 attending staff here at Metro?
- 10 A. **lies.**
- 11 Q. And you are a part of that staff now?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. All right. Or how many were there on that staff  
14 in '87?
- 15 A. Six.
- 16 Q. Okay. And these are all physicians who trained  
17 yourself and the other fellow?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. All right. Would there be any set program for  
20 any individual one of these staff physicians to  
21 train you at any month or during any phase of  
22 your training? How did that work?
- 23 A. The attending infectious disease staff rotate on  
24 and off the inpatient consultation service on a  
25 monthly basis throughout the year.

1 Q. Okay. So each of them had two months?

2 A. Not necessarily.

3 Q. Depending on -- well, if there is six of them  
4 there's 12 months?

5 A. If they're divided up evenly then they'd all  
6 have two months but they're not.

7 Q. Explain that to me.

8 A. For example, **some** of the physicians are more  
9 research-oriented. Therefore they would only do  
E0 one month.

I1 Q. Okay.

12 A. And other physicians are more clinically-  
13 oriented, they would do more than one month.

14 a. Would there be some type of schedule reflecting  
15 which of the staff physicians was the quote,  
16 "attending," end quote, in any particular month  
17 for consultation?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Do you know who was the attending in November of  
20 '87?

21 A. It's Dr. Tomford.

22 Q. Tomford?

23 A. T O M F O R D.

24 Q. Okay. And who was it in December?

25 A. Dr. Spagnuolo, S P A G N U O L O.

1 **a.** I'm sorry, S P A G?

2 **A.** N U O L O .

3 **Q.** Okay. And who was **it** in January?

4 **A.** Dr. Wolinsky, W O L I N S K Y.

5 **e.** Okay. Why is **it** you remember these?

6 **A.** Because they always had fixed rotations. **It** was  
7 easy to remember.

8 **Q.** Okay. I mean did you check before the  
9 deposition today who the attendings were in  
10 those months?

**A.** No. That's just the way the rotation was.

**Q.** Well, who would **it** have been in February then?  
Now we're talking about '88.

**A.** Well, now that **would** have been a hard month to  
15 remember because one of the younger staff  
16 members would have possibly picked up that month  
17 and **I'd** have to look that one up. But for the  
18 summer months through January **it** was a fixed  
19 rotation.

20 **Q.** Well, who would have been in October for  
21 example?

22 **A.** Wolinsky.

23 **Q.** Okay. So the three of them would have covered  
24 those six months?

25 **A.** Right.

1 Q. Explain to me how it is a patient who comes  
2 under the care of an infectious disease  
3 physician here at Metro is managed in terms of  
4 the day-to-day management by the fellow as  
5 opposed to the attending or the  
6 interrelationship of the two. How does that  
7 work or how did it work in '87?

8 A. The fellow carries a beeper. All the  
9 consultations come in for staff patients and  
10 some private patients through the beeper. The  
11 fellow then goes and evaluates the patient.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. Every day the attending sits down with the  
14 fellow and the other members of the consult team  
15 which includes medical residents and medical  
16 students, and reviews all the new consults of  
17 the day. In addition, all the consults that  
18 have been done for that month are also  
19 reviewed. Following that review, we then get up  
20 and go round in the hospital and see the  
21 patients.

22 Q. Together?

23 A. Together.

24 Q. Okay. And when a new month came along you would  
25 do that or would that be done with the new

1 attending then?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Would that be only for new consults or would it  
4 be for patients who had continuing consultation?

5 A. That included both new and the patients that  
6 were still being followed by the **service**.

7 Q. All right. For example, if somebody was in for  
8 two, three weeks, how often would the attending  
9 be involved with that person?

10 A. The attending hears about that case every day.

11 Q. From the fellow?

12 A. From the fellow or the resident that's following  
13 the case.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. The attending may not see the patient every day  
16 depending on the circumstances.

17 Q. Okay. Does the attending when he sees the  
18 patient dictate any patient notes, doctor's  
19 orders, anything of that nature?

20 MR. ZELLERS: If you know,

21 Q. Well, typically?

22 A. Generally no.

23 Q. Why not?

24 A. Because the documentation on the medical record  
25 is handled by the fellow.

1 Q. But what you're telling me is that it is  
2 typically reviewed with the fellow, by the  
3 fellow with the attending?

4 A. Correct.

6 read a note that's written by a fellow in  
7 assuming that he has reviewed that treatment  
8 plan or what he's put in that note with the  
9 attending before he puts it down?

10 A. Generally, yes.

11 MR. ZELLERS: Chuck, all your  
12 questions are relating to infectious disease?

13 MR. KAMPINSKI: Yes. That's  
14 correct.

15 Q. Okay. Did you go through the charts before  
16 coming here this morning to determine what your  
17 involvement was?

18 A. I have reviewed them in somewhat of a cursory  
19 fashion to refresh my memory about the case.

20 Q. Well, did you have an independent recollection  
21 about Mr. Cates before reviewing them?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. When did you first become involved in the care  
24 of Mr. Cates?

25 A. The first recollection that I have of



1 involvement is during the January admission.

2 Q. Well, when you say the first recollection, **does**  
3 that mean that you may have been involved before  
4 but you just don't recall?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. What **were** you doing -- **well**, were you doing  
7 research from July to January?

8 A. No. I was on the inpatient service in December.

9 Q. What is that?

10 A. The inpatient consult service, infectious  
11 disease.

18 it down by day, one of you. There were  
19 different points in December.

20 MR. KAMPINSKI: Okay. Maybe I just  
21 don't understand.

22 Q. I thought before you told ~~me~~ that the first year  
23 fellow, and that is Dr. Bender, was the fellow  
24 that would have been involved in the  
25 consultations up through **December**?

1 A. End of November.

2 Q. Oh, end of November. Okay. So that you then  
3 took over for her in December?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. When in December?

6 A. December 1st.

7 MR. KAMPINSKI: All right. Well,  
8 what were you talking about, Mike?

9 MR. ZELLERS: I don't think that's  
10 right. I think that you saw -- I mean my  
11 understanding is that Dr. Bender finished out  
12 the patient on the 1st and the 2nd and that you  
13 would have picked up after that but you're the  
14 witness.

15 THE WITNESS: Well, he didn't ask  
16 me what happened to Mr. Cates in December, he  
17 asked me if I had any contact with Mr. Cates  
18 before January and I said I didn't recall any.

19 Q. Oh, all right. You took over the service  
20 December 1st?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. But you didn't get involved in his care?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Did you ever receive any phone calls regarding  
25 him in December?

1 A. I don't remember any.

2 Q. If you would have and if *you* would have given  
3 any medical advice would that have been noted in

5 MR. ZELLERS: By him?

6 MR. KAMPINSKI: That's correct, by  
7 him.

8 A. Probably not.

9 Q. Why not?

10 A. Because it was an over-the-phone consultation  
11 and in those circumstances I generally wouldn't  
12 have written a note.

13 Q. Do you recall any over-the-phone consultation?

14 A. I don't recall any.

15 Q. You are aware of the note that was written by  
16 Dr. Matejczyk?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Do you have any recollection of her calling you  
19 regarding Mr. Cates on December 30?

20 A. I don't remember.

21 Q. Are you aware of the content of that note?

22 A. I have seen the note.

23 MR. ZELLERS: Is that in the  
24 chart?

25 MR. KAMPINSKI: Yes.

1                   **MR. ZELLERS:** I don't think we  
2                   could find it in the chart. We had it marked at  
3                   the deposition and I ended up with the  
4                   original.

5                   **MR. KAMPINSKI:** Okay. Where did  
6                   you get the original?

7                   **MR. ZELLERS:** Prom Dr. Matejczyk's  
8                   outpatient chart, I think we got this at the  
9                   deposition of Dr. Matejczyk and we marked it at  
10                  that time.

11                  **MR. SEIBEL:** Yes.

12                  **MR. KAMPINSKI:** But you never came  
13                  up with the chart copy, Though.

14                  **MR. ZELLERS:** My recollection is  
15                  no, we didn't find this copy in the chart.

16                  **MR. KWMPINSKI:** Yes. This is hers,  
17                  this is not the one that would be in the chart.

18                  **MR. ZELLERS:** What we're looking at  
19                  as Defendant's Exhibit 2, 10-3-89 came from Dr.  
20                  Matejczyk's office chart.

21                  **MR. KAMPINSKI:** Yes. But I'm  
22                  saying the original that would have been in the  
23                  hospital chart has never been found. Is that  
24                  correct?

25                  **MR. ZELLERS:** I believe that

1       there's a copy in the hospital chart without the  
2       notation.

3                   **MR. SEIBEL:**   I believe that's  
4       true.

5   Q.   Why don't you turn to the hospital record then  
6       if you would, the copy that's in the hospital  
7       record.

8                   **MR. ZELLERS:**   And I don't know --  
9       go ahead and see if you can find it, Doctor. I  
10      have got a Xerox copy of it. A Xerox copy of  
11      It's marked as Defendant's Exhibit 1 on  
12      10-3-89.

13                  **MR. KAMPINSKI:**   Okay. And this was  
14      marked as 1 in her depo, wasn't it?

15                  **MR. ZELLERS:**   **Yes.** These are two  
16      of the exhibits from her deposition.

17                  **MR. KAMPINSKI:**   Yes. Okay.

18   Q.   Doctor, the two exhibits we're looking at, 1 and  
19       2, actually 1 is a copy of what was marked, is a  
20       copy of what was in the hospital chart, okay.  
21       **You** can look if you want but I think we can all  
22       agree that that's correct, right?

23                  **MR. ZELLERS:**   Yes.

24   Q.   Do you know how these sheets are generated,  
25       Doctor, these laboratory sheets?

1 A. No.

2 Q. All right. These are done typically, though, at  
3 a physician's request. In other words, samples  
4 are taken, sent to the lab, the lab reports them  
5 back, right?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And you rely on these as a physician, do you  
8 not?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. That's why you send them to the lab, right?

11 A. Right.

12 Q. Okay. Do you know how they get back into the  
13 chart?

14 A. No.

15 Q. On the hospital copy, Doctor, there's no  
16 writing, is there?

17 MR. ZELLERS: Well --

18 A. There's writing but you mean there's no writing  
19 by Dr. Matejczyk?

20 Q. That's exactly what I mean.

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. Now, if we look at Exhibit 2, apparently she's  
23 written something reflecting an alleged  
24 conversation that she had with somebody,  
25 although she doesn't identify who it is. First

1 of all, why don't you read the note **so** we're all  
2 on the same page.

3 A. The note says 12-30-87: Do you want me to try  
4 and interpret the abbreviations?

5 Q. Sure.

6 A. It says, no therapy antibiotics per infectious  
7 disease if wound fine. Path report: Rheumatoid  
8 nodule, parentheses, exclamation point, close  
9 parentheses, wound check excellent, 12-30.

10 MR. ZELLERS: Just so the record is  
11 clear, we're looking at Defendant's Exhibit 2  
12 which Dr. Blinkhorn -- and Defendant's Exhibit  
13 1, both of which were marked on October 3 of  
14 '89.

15 Q. Now Doctor, would you have given this kind of  
16 medical opinion over the phone without seeing  
17 the patient, sir?

18 MR. ZELLERS: Objection. Go  
19 ahead.

20 A. I can't say without recalling whether I was  
21 called on this case or not.

22 Q. I understand that and my question really is a  
23 general one, not necessarily relating to this  
24 particular note, but generally would you give  
25 this kind of medical advice over the phone?

1 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

2 A. What kind of medical advice?

3 Q. That the patient **was** not to receive antibiotics  
4 if, quote, "wound fine," whatever that means?

5 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

6 A. It would depend on the wound and the history and  
7 the clinical situation of the patient so I can't  
answer your question in a general sense at all  
9 without more specifics.

10 Q. Well, are you suggesting that *you* would have to  
11 see the patient or see the patient's chart?

12 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

13 A. I'm suggesting that I would need more  
14 information besides what you have asked me.

15 Q. All right. Would you have requested more  
16 information then from the physician who called  
*you* with such a request for a consult?

MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

19 A. Over the phone?

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. Generally I would.

22 Q. All right. But you have no recollection of  
23 receiving this phone call at all?

24 A. I have no recollection of receiving this.

25 Q. Is this appropriate advice for a patient who has



been previously admitted for staphylococcal  
aureus, methicillin resistant?

MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

A. I can't understand that without more specifics.

Q. Well, you saw Mr. Cates when, January?

A. Yes, sir.

a. Of '88?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What did you see him for?

A. He was admitted at that time with staphylococcal  
endocarditis.

Q. Pretty bad, isn't it?

A. Yes, sir, it is.

Q. And when did you first see him?

A. I saw him on January 3, 1988, 7:00.

Q. That's four days after this alleged consult,  
phone consult, right?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. How did the wound look?

A. At which time?

Q. When **you** saw him?

A. The time that I **saw** him the record indicates  
that the wound was not particularly inflamed.

Q. So that just looking at the wound wouldn't  
necessarily tell you whether or not there's a

1           raging infection inside?

2                       MR. ZELLERS:  Objection.

3   Q.  Would it?

4                       MR. ZELLERS:  What date are you --

5                       MR. KAMPINSKI:  January 3 I thought  
6           he said.

7   Q.  Right?

8   A.  Right.  That's what you're referring to?

9   Q.  Yes.

10  A.  And the question is?

11                               -   -   -   -

12                       (Thereupon, the requested portion of  
13                       the record was read by the Notary.)

14                               -   -   -   -

15  A.  Inside?

16  Q.  The knee.

17  A.  Inside what, sir?

18  Q.  The knee.  Prosthesis'?

19  A.  Well, the wound would not tell you whether or  
20           not there is an infection or not.

21  Q.  Referring then back to this December 30 written  
22           note by Dr. Matejczyk, do you know what she  
23           means when she says if wound fine?

24                       MR. ZELLERS:  Objection.

25  A.  I have no way of knowing what she means by that

1 without asking her.

2 Q. Well, she claims that **this** was told to her by  
3 the ID, that **is**, the infectious disease **person**,  
4 which presumably was you, since you are the one  
5 that was on call, right?

8 what would you Rave meant?

9 A. I don't **know** that I said this so -- I can't  
10 interpret what she means **by** this.

11 Q. Doctor, I'm not quarreling with you. I'm not  
12 saying that you said **it**, she says you said **it**,  
13 okay?

14 A. As far as I can tell from here she doesn't say  
15 who says **it**.

16 Q. Was there another ID that she would have spoken  
17 to on December 30?

18 A. It's possible.

19 Q. Were you **on** duty December 30?

20 A. **Yes**, sir, I was.

21 Q. Who else was on duty then?

22 A. To the best of my recollection I would have been  
23 the only fellow on.

24 Q. All right. If you were the only fellow on then  
25 can we reasonably assume that **if** she spoke to an

infectious disease person that would have been  
you?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Why not?

5 A. Because she **could** have just as easily called Dr.  
6 Bender.

7 Q. Where was **Dr.** Bender on December 30?

8 a. To be honest with you, I don't know.

9 Q. Well, when you went on duty in December and she  
10 went off, what did her duties become?

11 A. She would **have** done research but she would have  
12 been based here at the hospital.

13 **a.** So she would have been available at least in  
14 theory?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. To be called?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And it wouldn't be ridiculous for her to have  
19 been called since she was the one that had been  
20 seeing the patient back in November?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. Do you believe you were the one that was called  
23 December 30?

24 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

25 A. I don't recall.

1 Q. I heard you the first, second and third time you  
2 said that. I asked you if you believe that you  
3 were the one that was called?

4 A. I don't recall.

5 a. That's not what I'm asking you, Doctor. I'm  
6 asking you if you believe you are the one that  
7 was called?

8 A. I can't answer that because I don't remember. I  
9 can't give you a truthful answer, sir.

10 Q. Is this appropriate advice to give over the  
11 phone, Doctor, for an infectious disease fellow  
12 or staff physician or anyone who is consulting  
13 without seeing the patient?

14 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

15 A. Depends on the circumstances,

16 a. Well, on the circumstances that existed with  
17 respect to Mr. Cates. And to be fair to you, I  
18 assume when he came in in January you reviewed  
19 his past record?

20 A. That's correct.

21 a. All right. So you know what the circumstances  
22 were regarding Mr. Cates' past history?

23 A. I knew in January.

24 Q. All right. You wouldn't have known that when  
25 you got a call December 30 because you hadn't

1 reviewed his case?

2 A. I don't recall whether I got a call.

3 MR. ZELLERS: Okay.

4 Q. Listen, I'm not trying to play games with you  
5 but I'm faced with a situation where there's  
6 another physician who says she called an  
7 infectious disease doctor who is not listed  
8 here, okay? That's either you or Br. Bender,  
9 presumably, all right?

10 I understand your answers that you don't  
11 recall and I'm trying to see if, in fact, it was  
12 you, even if you don't: recall if it **was** you, if  
13 this **was** appropriate advice that you gave. Do  
14 you understand what I'm saying?

15 MR. ZELLERS: Or that was given by  
16 someone.

17 MR. KAMPINSKI: I'm saying if it  
18 was him. I'm not saying it was him. I accept  
19 what he's saying that he doesn't recall. Let's  
20 deal with the advice that was given regardless  
21 of who it was.

22 A. I can't say whether this is appropriate advice  
23 if I don't know what the conversation was that  
24 transpired between Dr. Matejczyk and the  
25 infectious disease individual she spoke with.

1       Based on what her note says here, I can't answer  
2       that question.

3   Q.   What does the report itself tell you about the  
4       test that was done on Mr. Cates?

5   A.   All this report tells me is that a swab grew

a

13       physician whether or not to provide treatment to

15   A.   Absolutely not.

16   Q.   What else would you need to know?

17   A.   You'd need to know the clinical information.

18   Q.   And clinical information such as what?

19   A.   Such as the patient's history, such as the  
20       circumstances surrounding why this swab was  
21       obtained, and specifically what the, quote,  
22       "wound" as printed on here looked like.

23   Q.   Well, I thought you told me a minute ago that  
24       that's not necessarily determinative either,  
25       that is, how the wound looks?

1 A. You asked me before whether the wound could tell  
2 me whether there was an infection inside the  
3 knee. That's not what you just asked me.

4 Q. Okay. I'm not sure I understand the distinction  
5 you are making.

6 A. Then I don't understand your question.

7 Q. Okay. Let's work on it so we both understand  
8 what we're saying.

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. You just said you need to know the clinical  
11 information why the swab was obtained, the  
12 history and what the wound looked like?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Okay. Why is that different than the question  
15 you responded to earlier when you said that the  
16 wound, I think you said looked or didn't look  
17 ominous, something to that effect?

18 A. Didn't look particularly inflamed.

19 Q. All right. And that that didn't tell you  
20 necessarily what was going on inside of the  
21 wound?

22 A. No. I said inside what and you said inside the  
23 knee. It tells me that the wound didn't look  
24 infected.

25 Q. Okay. All right. The distinction you are



i making then is the surface wound as opposed to  
2 what is underneath it. **Is** that correct?

3 A. The distinction I'm making is if I'm determining  
4 if the wound is infected I look at the wound.  
5 If I'm determining whether the knee beneath it  
6 is infected, the wound itself is not enough.

7 Q. Okay. All right. Let's deal with January 3 for  
8 a moment. Was the wound infected when you saw  
9 it?

10 A. The wound did not appear to be infected.

11 Q. All right. What was --

12 .. He had staph aureus in his bloodstream and in  
13 his cerebral spinal fluid.

14 Q. What was the primary site of it? Did you ever  
15 determine that?

16 A. I don't know.

17 Q. Were there cultures taken from the prosthesis,  
18 from inside the knee joint?

19 A. There were two samples taken, one each from each  
20 knee.

21 Q. And what did you find?

22 A. Both aspirates from the knee joints, that being  
23 right and left, grew staph aureus.

24 Q. And in your review of the prior hospitalizations  
25 he did have a staph aureus infection, did he

1 not, in the November 13 hospitalization?

2 A. Yes, sir, he did.

3 Q. And the fellow, that is, Dr. Bender at that time  
4 indicated that he had developed a septic  
5 prosthetic sight knee?

6 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

7 A. I don't believe that's what she indicated.

8 MR. ZELLERS: Chuck, do you have a  
9 question or --?

10 MR. KANPINSKI: No.

11 Q. November 14 in the progress notes.

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. There is an infectious disease consult. Do you  
14 see that?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. And is that -- whose signature is that?

17 A. That's Dr. Bender.

18 Q. All right. Under -- on the second page of that  
19 is that assess?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. And then underneath that what does that say,  
22 suspect?

23 A. It says probable.

24 Q. No. There's two.

25 A. Suggest.

1 Q. **Assess** and suggest, and under assess number one  
2 says what?

3 A. Probable septic prosthetic right knee with  
4 superficial furuncle over right patella.

5 Q. Okay. **So** when I said that she determined that  
6 there was probable septic prosthetic right knee  
7 I didn't make that up, I mean it's in the chart?

8 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

9 A. She didn't determine that that's what it was.  
10 She was concerned and said this is probably.  
11 That was not her final diagnosis.

12 Q. What was her final diagnosis?

13 A. The final diagnosis was that there was a  
14 subcutaneous Infection with staph aureus.

15 Q. Where is that set forth?

16 A. It says on the discharge face sheet, admitting  
17 diagnosis was infected total knee arthroplasty,  
18 discharge diagnosis was superficial wound  
19 infection.

20 Q. Can I see that, please? You didn't read  
21 everything that's set forth there, did you,  
22 Doctor? Why don't we start with admitting  
23 diagnosis?

24 A. I read that.

25 Q. And then principal discharge diagnosis?

1 A. Superficial wound infection.

2 Q. Well, it's got something else there, doesn't it?

3 A. There's another diagnosis that **was** lined out as  
4 being incorrect.

5 Q. Who wrote that?

6 A. That's written by the medical records  
7 reviewers. They come through and they write  
8 diagnoses in the chart based on their  
9 understanding of the chart record. The  
10 attending physician prior to signing the chart  
11 then reviews these and if there is any  
12 inaccuracies those are corrected by the  
13 attending physician. She indicates here that by  
14 lining through this statement that that's an  
15 incorrect final discharge diagnosis.

16 Q. When did she line through that, Doctor?

17 a. I have no way of knowing.

18 Q. So that's not Dr. Bender putting that down,  
19 that's the physician, that's Dr. Matejczyk  
20 putting that down?

21 MR. ZELLERS: Objection. If you  
22 know.

23 A. I don't know who put this down but I do know  
24 based on the subsequent events in January that  
25 Dr. Bender's impression of this case at that

1       time from personal communications was that this  
2       was a superficial infection, subcutaneous  
3       infection.

4   Q.   Run that by me.   Slow down.

5   A.   When I became involved with his case in January,  
6       and discussed it at that time with Dr. Bender  
7       who had cared for him in November, her  
8       impression at that time was that this was a  
9       subcutaneous infection with staph aureus and  
10      that this was not a prosthetic knee infection.

11   Q.   Once again, do you know if that's her writing  
12       there?

13   A.   Whose writing?

14   Q.   Dr. Bender's.

15   A.   Where?

16                   MR. ZELLERS:   Where it says  
17       superficial wound breakdown?

18                   MR. KAMPINSKI:   Yes.

19   A.   I don't have any way of knowing whose writing  
20       that is to be honest with you.

21   Q.   Well, is Dr. Bender's signature on that page  
22       anywhere?

23   A.   No.

24   Q.   Is the treatment for a superficial -- what did  
25       you call it?

1 A. She calls it a superficial wound breakdown.

2 Q. Different than an infected total knee each of  
3 which grew staph aureus, methicillin resistant?

4 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

5 Q. Is the treatment different, Doctor, or do you  
6 treat the organism?

7 A. The duration of treatment would be different.

8 Q. And how would it be different?

9 A. A prosthetic knee infection would generally not  
10 be treated with antibiotics alone.

11 Q. Well, let's deal with the superficial. You are  
12 looking now at the discharge summary?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You wanted to see what was set forth there?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And what was set forth?

17 A. Specifically --

18 Q. **As** it relates to whether or not it was infected  
19 total knee or whether it was superficial?

20 A. This does not have a final discharge diagnosis  
21 on it.

22 Q. At all?

23 A. No, sir.

24 Q. Does it have any diagnosis?

25 A. It has an admitting diagnosis which is only

1           provisional.

2   Q.   Let me see this a second.   **And** that's infected  
3           right total knee arthroplasty?

4   A.   Correct.

5   Q.   And this indicated that it's draining purulent

7                           MR. ZELLERS:   Objection.

8   Q.   What does that mean?

9   A.   That means liquid that has the appearance of  
10          pus.

11   Q.   Is that significant to you as an infectious  
12          disease doctor?

13                           MR. ZELLERS:   Objection.

14   A.   With regard to?

15   Q.   With regard to whether it's an infected right  
16          total knee or whether it's superficial?

17   A,   I can't tell based on that whether the  
18          prosthetic knee is infected.

19   Q.   Getting back to my earlier question, Doctor, how  
20          do you treat staph aureus that is methicillin  
21          resistant?

22                           MR. ZELLERS:   Objection,   You gave  
23          him two superficial or --

24                           MR. KAMPINSKI:   I asked if it  
25          mattered.

1 A. It matters in terms of where the infection is  
2 how you treat it.

3 Q. And I'm talking now from an infectious disease  
4 standpoint as opposed to the orthopedic  
5 standpoint.

6 A. I am not sure there's a difference.

7 Q. Well, the difference would be, I guess, from an  
8 orthopedic standpoint you might consider  
9 removing the knee, right, the prosthesis?

10 A. If it's infected.

11 Q. Okay. **Well,** I suppose that's also from an  
12 infectious disease standpoint?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Because obviously a foreign body is a place  
15 where these organisms can grow, right?

16 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q.  
19 that, right, so that you would deal with that as  
20 an infectious disease physician? In other  
21 words, you might make recommendations to the  
22

23

24

25

A. Assum



1 Q. **Yes.** I understand.

2 A. Then the standard of **care would** be to give  
3 antibiotics and to remove it with rare  
4 exception.

5 Q. **Okay.** If it's not infected it can become  
6 infected, can't it?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. And getting back to I guess the second part of  
9 my question, how would you treat staph aureus  
10 that's methicillin resistant if it was just  
11 superficial?

12 A. I might not treat it if it was just superficial.

13 Q. Well, would you continue --

14 A. I might use a topical antibiotic.

You would want to make sure you got rid of it,  
16 wouldn't you?

I would make sure that I got rid of the  
18 infection.

19 Q. That's what I meant.

20 A. I may not get rid of the organism. An organism  
21 can colonize a site without causing infection,  
22 so therefore I wouldn't necessarily treat just a  
23 culture result that shows staph aureus.

24 Q. Is staph aureus that's methicillin resistant  
25 particularly difficult to treat?

1 A. It's difficult in the sense that there are  
2 limited antibiotics which **we** can use.  
3 Specifically Vancomycin.

4 Q. Okay. And is Vancomycin effective in treating  
5 it?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did you, in fact, treat it with Vancomycin in  
8 the January admission?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. For how **long**?

11 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

12 A. He was treated the entire month of January and I  
13 need to have the next line to know when it was  
14 discontinued.

15 MR. ZELLERS: Do you need him to  
16 look that up?

17 MR. KAMPINSKI: I'd like to know  
18 that. Do we have that?

19 MR. ZELLERS: We have got the  
20 volumes here.

21 A. We need Volume **6**. It was continued through  
22 February 11.

23 Q. Need the next volume?

24 A. I'm sorry?

25 Q. Need the next volume?

1 A. Vancomycin was discontinued on February 19.

2 Q. Did you continue any other antibiotics after  
3 that?

4 A. Me specifically?

5 Q. Or anybody on the infectious disease unit or  
6 anybody caring for Mr. Cates?

7 A. It appears that whoever was caring for him at  
8 that time put him on Ciprofloxacin.

9 Q. And what is that as it relates --

10 A. That is a relatively new oral antibiotic which  
11 has activity against methicillin resistant  
12 staph.

13 Q. And how long was *he* continued -- well, let me  
14 make it easy, on any kind of antibiotic for this  
15 infection as a result of that admission in  
16 January?

17 A. I don't know that.

18 Q. Well, wouldn't the record tell you?

19 A. It might.

20 Q. Didn't you continue with his care?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Who took it over?

23 A. Well, he went from the medical service to the  
24 Highland View Hospital Rehab Service. They  
25 assumed his care.

1 Q. So that's when you ceased seeing him for this  
2 problem?

3 A. As I recall. Do you know the answer to this  
4 question?

5 Q. No, I do not, Contrary to what you heard about  
6 lawyers we don't always know questions we ask,  
7 especially in discovery depositions.

8 MR. ZELLERS: That's it.

9 A And he appears to be on antibiotics, either  
10 Vancomycin or Ciprofloxacin in October of '88.

11 Q. And that was commenced in January of '88?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Is that because of the organism itself?

14 a. It's because the patient refused to have his  
15 prosthetic knee removed. Therefore we had no  
16 hopes of ever eradicating this infection from  
17 the joint since it had seeded there after his  
18 endocarditis.

19 Q. Okay. Did it seed there before the  
20 endocarditis?

21 A. There's no evidence for that.

22 Q. Where did it come from?

23 A. I don't know.

24 Q. Could it have come from the prosthetic device?

25 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

A. It's possible.

Q. Well, in terms of probability, isn't it probable that that's where it came from, Doctor?

MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

A. No.

6 Q. Where is it probable that **it** came from?

7 A. I don't know.

8 Q. Isn't it more probable that an infection that  
9 first presents itself on November 13 -- by the  
10 way, it was the same strain that occurred?

11 A. We don't know that.

32 Q. There was no comparisons on it? Wasn't it the  
13 same strain, Doctor?

14 A. They have the same sensitivity pattern. That  
15 doesn't mean it's the same strain.

16 Q. Well, it probably is, isn't it?

17 A. I can't say that. To determine that it's the  
18 same strain requires special types of testing  
19 that are only done in research labs for  
20 epidemiologic purposes.

21 Q. Let's assume it was for the sake of argument.

22 A. I can't assume it's the same strain.

23 Q. Well, I'm asking you to assume it for the sake  
24 of answering the following questions. Is it  
25 therefore more likely than not that it seeded in

1 the knee in the prosthetic device sometime  
2 during the hospitalization or sometime between  
3 the hospitalization commencing in November of  
4 1987 and the hospitalization which commenced on  
5 January 3 of '88?

6 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

7 A. We know it seeded there because when he came in  
8 in January the culture from this aspirate grew.  
9 When it seeded there I don't know.

10 Q. Well, all right. So we know it seeded there  
11 sometime before then?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. All right. What was he in the hospital for on  
14 December 22, '87?

15 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

16 A. Are you referring to the outpatient visit?

17 Q. Is that what it **was**, outpatient?

18 A. My recollection of that is only from looking at  
19 the records very briefly before.

20 Q. Were you consulted at all?

21 A. I don't recall.

22 Q. Why don't you **look** at, I guess it's the  
23 operative note for December 22. You got that?

24 A. Is this what you're referring to?

25 MR. KAMPINSKI: I assume you handed

1 him the right thing.

2 MR. ZELLERS: I handed him the  
3 outpatient records for December 1987.

4 MR. KAMPINSKI: All right.

5 MR. ZELLERS: I want you to show  
6 him what you want him to look at so you can look  
7 at the same things.

8 Q. (Indicating).

9 A. All right.

10 Q. What we're looking at is an OR intraoperative  
11 note, it's under ASU progress notes, ASU being  
12 Ambulatory Surgical Unit?

13 A. I think so.

14 a. Okay. And that's for surgery done and then the  
15 patient can leave the hospital, right?

16 a. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. Is there an admission physical or  
18 anything that goes with that or do you know?

19 A. I don't know what their operating practices are.

20 Q. Well, let's see what you have there to make sure  
21 it's -- what was done during that procedure,  
22 Doctor?

23 MR. ZELLERS: Objection. Only  
24 because all he is going to do is read from the  
25 notes. He wasn't there, he wasn't involved.

1 A. The note says --

2 Q. You are now referring to the operative report?

3 A. I'm sorry, operative note. The dictated  
4 operative note under procedure says a three inch  
5 ellipse was made removing scar tissue.

6 Q. Well, the reason -- they closed an open wound,  
7 right?

8 A. It said there was an incision made around the  
9 one centimeter open wound after cultures were  
10 taken. Approximately a three inch ellipse was  
11 made removing scar tissue.

12 Q. And a three inch ellipse means what?

13 A. My understanding of that type of incision is  
14 that it's an incision used to excise a previous  
15 wound.

16 Q. I don't understand what you're saying.

17 A. An ellipse is a geometric figure that has this  
18 configuration. I can't -- I can show you with  
19 my finger but I don't believe she can copy  
20 that. An ellipse simply means a type of  
21 incision that you make around a previous linear  
22 wound in order to remove it in toto.

23 Q. Why would you do that?

24 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

25 A. I wouldn't do it personally not being a surgeon,



1           and the circumstances why Dr. Matejczyk did that  
2           were not communicated to me. All **1** have **is** the  
3           record that is in front of us.

4   Q.   All right. And you weren't called in to do  
5           anything on that occasion?

6   A.   Not that I recall.

7   Q.   All right. And you would have been on the ID  
8           service at that time, right?

9   A.   That's correct.

10   Q.   She did take a culture, did she not?

11   A.   It says here that there was -- there were  
12           cultures taken.

13   Q.   All right. And that corresponds with Exhibit 1  
14           and 2 that you have in front of you?

15   A.   Yes, sir.

16   Q.   The wound was closed, was it not, Doctor?

17                   MR. ZELLERS: On December **22**?

18                   MR. KAMPINSKI: Yes.

19   A.   Yes.

20   Q.   And is that appropriate if you have an infection  
21           to close a wound over it?

22                   MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

23   Q.   Just in general?

24                   MR. SEIBEL: Objection.

25   A.   Depends on the type of infection whether to

1 close the wound over it.

2 Q. How about staph aureus, methicillin resistant?

3 A. Doesn't matter what the organism is, has to do  
4 with where the infection is and the type of  
5 wound.

6 Q. How about this type of wound, an infection in  
7 the knee?

8 A. This type of wound was not described as being  
9 infected.

10 Q. I didn't ask you to assume that the description  
11 is accurate, I just asked you if, in fact, it's  
12 appropriate to close a wound with an infection?

13 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

14 A. And I answered that question that it would  
15 depend on the type of wound whether it was  
16 acceptable.

17 Q. Okay. And you're modifying type of wound by --

18 A. Site, mechanism of injury, appearance, et  
19 cetera.

20 Q. All right. Let me ask you something different,  
21 Doctor. If a wound such as Mr. Cates had on his  
22 right knee was draining pus, was swollen, did  
23 **look** infected, would it be appropriate not to  
24 treat it?

25 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

1                   **MR. SEIBEL:**   Objection.

2   A.   I couldn't answer that without being there and  
3       seeing it myself.

4   Q.   Well, if you were given that description?

5   A.   If I was given that description.

6   Q.   Yes, sir.

7   A.   That the wound was infected.

8   Q.   Well, I mean would you conclude from the  
9       description that I gave you that it was  
10      infected, and that is, that it was draining pus  
11      that it was swollen?

12   A.   I wouldn't conclude that unless you told me that  
13      the wound was infected. Your description could  
14      just as well be a superficial infection that  
15      wouldn't require antibiotics.

16   Q.   All right. And that would be true even if I  
17      told you that this person had previously been  
18      discharged less than a month earlier with a  
19      staph aureus infection resistant to methicillin?

20   A.   Well, we're dealing with hypotheticals here.

21   Q.   Well, maybe we are and maybe we aren't but why  
22      don't you assume what I'm saying is right?

23                   **MR. ZELLERS:**   Do you understand the  
24      question?

25   A.   I'm getting lost because of all the ifs and --

1 do you want her to read it or do you want --

2 Q. Let me restate it. Is it appropriate to not  
3 treat a wound such as **Mr.** Cates had if --

4 A. I never saw Mr. Cates' wound **so** I can't say such  
5 as Mr. Cates had.

6 Q. You saw **it** in January?

7 A. I didn't see it in December when the surgical  
8 incision **was** made.

9 Q. I didn't **say** you did.

10 A. But you asked me.

11 **MR. ZELLERS:** Let him finish his  
12 question and then you either can answer or you  
13 can't.

14 Q. Is it appropriate to not treat a wound if, in  
15 fact, that wound is in the right knee and is on  
16 a patient who had been discharged within a month  
17 with staph aureus resistant to methicillin when  
18 that wound was swollen and had pus coming out of  
19 it?

20 **MR. ZELLERS:** Objection.

21 **MR. SEIBEL:** You mean the right  
22 knee?

23 **MR. KAMPINSKI:** Isn't that what I  
24 said?

25 **MR. SEIBEL:** Yes.

1 MR. KAMPINSKI: I think that's what  
2 I mean.

3 MR. SEIBEL: Okay.

4 A. E can't comment on that.

5 Q. Why not?

6 A. Because you said when it was swollen, had pus  
7 coming out of it. I have no indication that  
8 khat's the **case**,

9 Q. I'm asking you to assume that.

10 MR. ZELLERS: We're not looking at  
11 the records now. He is asking you a  
12 hypothetical question.

13 A. If the wound was superficial it may, in fact, be  
14 appropriate not to give anything other than  
15 topical therapy.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. And a superficial wound can be red and have pus  
18 coming out of it and not indicate a deeper  
19 infection.

20 Q. There's no question he had a deep infection when  
21 he came in in January, January 3rd?

22 A. He had endocarditis.

23 Q. That's the infection getting around the heart?

24 A. That's a high grade bloodstream infection  
25 involving a heart valve.

1 Q. But it seeded in the knee, in the prosthesis?

2 A. It seeded in both knees.

3 Q. No question he had it on January 3rd then,  
4 correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. In your opinion would he have had it December  
7 30?

8 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

9 A. I have no way of knowing whether he had it  
10 December 30.

11 Q. When did it occur, January 2nd?

12 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

13 A. When did what occur?

14 Q. The infection?

15 A. In his bloodstream?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. I have no way of knowing when it occurred.

18 Q. How long does it take to get into the  
19 bloodstream from a prosthetic device? Do you  
20 know?

21 A. I can't answer that question. I can't answer  
22 that question. I'm not sure anyone can.

23 Q. Do you have any opinion as to how long it had  
24 been there prior to January 3rd?

25 A. In his bloodstream?

1 Q. In his body?

2 A. He is colonized with staph aureus all the time.

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. **As** far as in his body. If you mean how long **it**  
5 was in his blood, **I** don't know how long **it** was  
6 in his blood.

7 Q. How long was **it** in his knee prosthesis in your  
8 opinion?

9 A. I have no way of knowing.

10 Q. You **don't** have an opinion as to that?

11 A. **No**.

12 Q. The culture that **was** done on the 22nd --

13 A. **Yes**, sir.

14 Q. -- the report itself **up** here says ORTH 05:12  
15 12-30. Do you see that?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Does that mean that's the date **it** reached the  
18 chart or **do** you know what that means?

19 A. **I** don't know what **it** means.

20 **a**. The tests themselves that were reflected on this  
21 exhibit that is Exhibit 2 were done on the 22nd  
22 when he was in the hospital **for** this procedure  
23 that we were discussing earlier?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. This outpatient procedure. There was no culture

1           done, was there, inside the knee but rather just  
2           a swab was done. Am I correct in that?

3   A. According to the records, that's correct.

4   Q. All right. So the only thing we can tell is  
5           what was on the surface by the swab?

6   A. Correct.

7   Q. All right. So that doesn't tell us one way or  
8           another what was underneath the surface, does  
9           it?

10   A. No.

11   Q. So we can only guess based upon the results that  
12           came back from this swab test, right?

13                   MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

14   A. No.

15   Q. We can't guess?

16   A. No.

17   Q. We can't tell anything?

18   A. That's correct.

19   Q. You can tell some things though, can't you?

20   A. All I can tell is that that swab grew staph  
21           aureus.

22   Q. What does that tell you?

23   A. Nothing.

24   Q. Then why take the swab?

25   A. Because if there is an infection it tells me



1           what to treat.

2   Q.   Well, how do you tell if there is an infection  
3           if you **get** staph aureus that is the same staph  
4           aureus --

5   A.   I don't know that it's the same staph aureus.

6   Q.   But you don't know that it's not?

7   A.   Correct.

8   Q.   I mean you get a lab result that says you have  
9           staph aureus resistant to methicillin which is  
10          the same exact thing you got earlier, right, in  
11          November?

12   A.   I'd have to look back.   I will take your word  
13          for it.

14   Q.   And you as a physician, I mean you look for the  
15          obvious, you don't ignore the obvious, do you?

16   A.   This isn't the obvious.

17   Q.   It's not obvious?

18   a.   No.

19   Q.   Moderate growth staph aureus, right?   Did I read  
20          that right?

21   A.   **Yes**, sir.

22   Q.   Does it say penicillin resistant?

23   A.   **Yes**, sir.

24   Q.   Oxacillin resistant?

25   A.   Yes.

- 1 Q. Cefazolin resistant?
- 2 A. Yes, sir.
- 3 Q. Erythromycin resistant?
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
- 5 Q. Is that a good staph?
- 6 A. You can't tell the qualities of a staph based on
- 7 its resistance pattern.
- 8 Q. It tells you how tough it is to treat, doesn't
- 9 it?
- 10 A. It tells you that.
- 11 Q. Why don't you take a look back and see if this
- 12 is the same sensitivity pattern, the resistance
- 13 pattern as we had in November.
- 14 A. No, it isn't.
- 15 Q. It's different?
- 16 A. Yes, sir.
- 17 Q. How is it different?
- 18 MR. ZELLERS: What page are you
- 19 looking at?
- 20 A. I'm looking at specimen dated November 13, right
- 21 knee drainage, specimen received swab. Specimen
- 22 Number 1152.
- 23 Q. What page of the chart, I'm sorry?
- 24 A. The pages, they're not numbered.
- 25 Q. Okay.

1 A. And then the next page says culture grows heavy  
2 growth staph aureus.

3 Q. Give me a moment.

4 MR. ZELLERS: Let him find where  
5 you are at. This is it right here.

6 MR. KAMPINSKI: No, it's not.

7 a. 1152.

8 MR. ZELLERS: He's numbered his  
9 pages.

10 Q. Yes. If you look at --

11 A. Then you see that his nose is actually --

12 Q. Just for one second, Doctor. This is a  
13 different page, I mean physically a different  
14 page than what you have shown me here.

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Why is that?

17 A. I don't know.

18 MR. ZELLERS: This looks like a  
19 summary adding 11-16. Does this Rave 11-16?

20 THE WITNESS: Well, the date here  
21 is 11-13.

22 Q. I see exactly what you're saying to me and what  
23 I'm saying so you can understand what I'm  
24 talking about is this physically is a different  
25 page.

1 A. Correct, Many times with multiple culture  
2 results the result will be repeated on several  
3 lab sheets.

4 MR. ZELLERS: Yours looks like a  
5 cumulative one with 11-16 added to it.

6 MR. KAMPINSKI: There should be  
7 another one I have. Just hold on to that and  
8 let me see if I can find that one.

9 Q. Okay. I'm sorry. Go ahead, Doctor.

10 A. The organism that came from around the knee  
11 during the November admission had a different  
12 sensitivity pattern than the organism that grew  
13 out at the December operative visit.

14 Q. Well --

15 A. But the nose indicating his staph carrier status  
16 **was** the same organism as we found in that  
17 operative visit.

18 Q. Well, where's the one that came out of his knee?

19 MR. ZELLERS: On what day?

20 MR. KAMPINSKI: Well, I asked him  
21 the previous admission **so** let him tell me what  
22 day.

23 Q. You never pointed out the nose.

24 A. We never got staph from the knee itself on the  
25 November admission. The wound, the superficial

1 wound Specimen Number 1152, dated November 13 is  
2 a swab and showed staph aureus.

3 Q. 1152?

4 A. Yes, sir. That's these numbers here.

5 A. Okay.

6 A. That's the page. That's the same page.

7 Q. Okay. So that's right here?

8 A. That's it.

9 Q. Okay. And how does that relate to the --

10 A. That species is resistant to Clindamycin whereas  
11 the one on 12-22 is sensitive to Clindamycin.

12 Q. Is that different?

13 A. That has a different sensitivity pattern.

14 Q. Well, when it says resistant and sensitive could  
15 that be the same?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Just being read differently?

18 A. No.

19 Q. What is the difference between the two?

20 A. One is sensitive to Clindamycin based on the  
21 disk sensitivity pattern that we use and one is  
22 not.

23 Q. Was there **still** evidence of growth of staph when  
24 he was discharged from the knee?

25 MR. SEIBEL: What day of

1 discharge?

2 MR. KAMPINSKI: In November. Well,  
3 December actually.

4 A. I don't know.

5 Q. Why don't you take a look.

6 A. I wouldn't be able -- you mean did it look like  
7 there was still infection there or was there a  
8 swab that showed it was still there?

9 Q. Was there a swab that showed it was still  
10 there. Obviously you didn't see him **so** --

11 A. No, sir.

12 Q. I understand.

13 A. Let's see. He was discharged December 2.  
14 There's a swab in here from the 17th but I don't  
15 see the result.

16 Q. Of November?

17 A. Of November. Sorry, November 17 of the knee  
18 area but I don't see the result. At least I  
19 haven't found the result yet. This says 11-17,  
20 right knee area Specimen Number 13561.

21 MR. KAMPINSKI: Which volume was  
22 that?

23 MR. SEIBEL: I don't know which  
24 volume of the original chart it was.

25 MR. ZELLERS: Let's see if we can

I find it.

2 It's got 11-21 at the top.

3 MR. SEIBEL: It's in the  
4 microbiology section.

5 A. Here **it** is.

6 Q. Okay. Go ahead.

7 A. It says no growth in three days.

8 Q. All right. That was November 17?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Were there any done after that?

11 A. I can't find any record that there was.

12 Q. And he was in, I'm sorry, for another two weeks  
13 after that?

14 A. He was admitted on November **13**. He was  
15 discharged on December **2**.

16 Q. So that there were no additional swabs or  
17 aspirates done to determine if there was growth  
18 prior to his discharge after November 17, is  
19 that correct, at least from the record?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Well, how do we know if he had any growth in the  
22 knee joint or even superficially after November  
23 17 --

24 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

25 Q. -- prior to his discharge or don't we?

1 A. There's no record of any further specimens after  
2 November 17.

3 Q. Well, how can you stop antibiotics if you don't  
4 know if there is any growth?

5 A. Because the culture result will not guide your  
6 duration of therapy for a superficial wound  
7 infection.

8 Q. And in your opinion, two weeks of I.V.  
9 antibiotics in this case **was** appropriate?

10 A. I can't comment on that because I never saw this  
11 man's wound.

12 Q. Okay. So you don't have any opinion one way or  
13 the other on whether the therapy, the antibiotic  
14 therapy that he was provided in November, in the  
15 November admission was appropriate or not.  
16 Would that be fair?

17 A. Yes.

18 A. Okay. If it was not superficial it would not  
19 have been appropriate, would it?

20 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

21 A. You'd have to be more specific. If it were not  
22 superficial what then? You said if it were not  
23 superficial it would not be appropriate, what --

24 Q. The treatment would not have been appropriate,  
25 that is, stopping the antibiotic therapy. Would



1           it, Doctor?

2   A.   It depends on **what** else it **might** have been,  
3       whether that **would** be appropriate **or** not.

4   Q.   **What else** it might have been.   Well, if it **was**  
5       staph aureus resistant to methicillin, then the  
6       treatment **would** not have been, then it **would** not  
7       have been appropriate to stop the treatment?

8                   **MR. ZELLERS:**   Objection.

9   A.   I can't agree with that without knowing  
10       specifically what it is we're treating.

11   Q.   **Now** you have got me totally confused.  
12       Presumably we're treating staph aureus resistant  
13       to methicillin?

14   A.   I don't treat staph aureus resistant to  
15       methicillin.   We treat patients who have  
16       infections with this organism.   Depending on the  
17       infection would determine the appropriateness of  
18       your therapy.

19                   **MR. ZELLERS:**   Do you mean the site?

20   A.   The site and the nature of the infection.

21   Q.   How about in the knee, Doctor, if there was  
22       staph aureus resistant to methicillin in the  
23       knee, then the cessation of the antibiotic on  
24       November 27 would not have? been appropriate for  
25       Mr. **Cates**, would it?

1 MR. ZELLERS: Objection.

2 A. Assuming that there is a **staph aureus** infection  
3 in the knee then 14 days of antibiotics would  
4 not be considered appropriate.

5 Q. Okay. If it were superficial would it be  
6 appropriate?

7 A. I'd have to see the wound.

8 Q. Okay. It still might not be appropriate  
9 depending on how it looked?

10 A. I can't comment on whether it would be  
11 appropriate or not without seeing the wound.

12 Q. Okay. And you don't know why he **was** back on the  
13 22nd, do you, other than what is set forth in  
14 that --

15 A. Other than what is set forth in the record, no,  
16 sir.

17 Q. Or the 30th when presumably an ID was called?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Could an oral antibiotic have been used for this  
20 staph aureus that **was** methicillin resistant --

21 A. When?

22 Q. -- effectively? Well, generally to get rid of  
23 the organism?

24 A. You can use oral antibiotics for this organism  
25 to eradicate infections with this organism.

1 Q. You can?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Would it be effective if it **was** seeded in the  
4 knee?

5 A. In eradicating the infection?

6 Q. Yes, sir.

7 A. No.

8 Q. Could you control it that way?

9 A. Depends what you mean by control it.

10 Q. I am not sure what I mean. I mean --

11 A. It would not be considered acceptable medical  
12 practice to treat a prosthetic knee infection  
13 with an oral antibiotic without removing the  
14 prosthesis,

15 MR. KAMPINSKI: Okay. That's all I  
16 have, Doctor.

17 MR. SEIBEL: No questions.

18 MR. ZELLERS: We will not waive  
19 signature.

20

21

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RICHARD BLIHKHORN, JR., M.D.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

The State of Ohio, ) **SS:**  
County of Cuyahoga.)

I, Aneta I. Fine, a Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, authorized to administer oaths and to take and certify depositions, do hereby certify that the above-named RICHARD BLINKHORN, JR., M.D., was by me, before the giving of his deposition, first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; that the deposition as above-set forth was reduced to writing by me by means of stenotypy, and was later transcribed into typewriting under my direction; that this is a true record of the testimony given by the witness, and was subscribed by said witness in my presence; that said deposition was taken at the aforementioned time, date and place, pursuant to notice or stipulations of counsel; that I am not a relative or employee or attorney of any of the parties, or a relative or employee of such attorney or financially interested in this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office, at Cleveland, Ohio, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 19 \_\_\_\_.

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Aneta I. Fine, Notary Public, State of Ohio  
1750 Midland Building, Cleveland, Ohio 44115  
My commission expires February 27, 1991

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