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ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

July 23, 1982

Mr. Charles H. Williams
Claims Department
Amica Mutual Insurance Company
Westgate Tower, Suite 300
20525 Center Ridge Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44116

Re: Ilana Korn
L11F01034

Dear Mr. Williams:

The above named claimant was examined by me on July 20, 1982 regarding an accident which occurred on January 6, 1982. This 37-year-old female informed me, in the presence of her counsel, that she was injured in approximately January of 1982. At that time, she was riding in the front seat of an automobile which was stopped when it was struck from behind by a second car. She was not wearing seatbelts at the time of the accident and recalled that she was thrown forward. She felt as though a "jolt went through me". Within 33 minutes of the accident, she had pain in her neck and low back as well as "aching" over her entire body. The following morning, she came under the care of Chiropractor Pavkov and was treated by him with "adjustments". She received treatment approximately three times a week for approximately two months.

Sometime thereafter, she came under the care of Chiropractor Firster and was treated by him twice a week for approximately three to four months. She received "wet heat packs", diathermy, ultrasound, massage and "the traction machine". Her treatment was applied to her neck and "the whole spine".

Following the initial three to four months of treatment, she then received treatment approximately once a week and, ultimately, once every two weeks. She was last treated by Chiropractor Firster approximately two months ago. She has not been treated by other physicians nor has she been hospitalized.

At the time of this examination, the claimant stated that she had pain in the left posterior aspect of her cervical spine which radiated into the left parascapular area. Her pain was present "almost all the time". It increased when she became tired and when she performed activities such as doing dishes or sitting for longer than 30 minutes on a hard chair. Washing her hair also increased her symptoms. When she was more relaxed or laying flat, her symptoms were reduced. There was no associated arm radiation. She specifically denied any other symptoms referable to the accident.

July 23, 1983

Mr. Charles H. Williams

Re: Iane Korn

L11F01034

Page Two.

initially, when questioned whether she had any symptoms referable to her cervical spine, she stated "nothing really". She then recalled that she had received "regular adjustments" while in California as well as from Dr. Pavlov prior to the accident. At the time of the accident, she was working as a child care worker and was away from work for approximately one to two days. Approximately two weeks after the accident, while "wrestling with a child", she sustained an additional injury to her neck and lower back. She recalled that she was lifting a teen-ager with several co-workers. She further stated that the second accident "made my neck worse - I was in bad shape". She then stopped working. In approximately December of 1982, she began working as a hospital aide supervisor and did so until approximately three weeks prior to this examination.

Physical examination revealed a female of approximately her stated age who was of average proportions. She stated that she was 5 feet 2 inches tall and weighed 120 pounds. She arose from the sitting position without difficulty, ambulated without limp and was able to ascend and descend the examining table in a normal fashion.

Examination of her cervical spine revealed normal cervical lordosis without evidence of paracervical or trapezius spasm. There were no areas of localized tenderness to palpation. Cervical flexion was accomplished normally and there was approximately 25 percent reduction in cervical extension, lateral rotation and lateral bending bilaterally. There was pain at the extremes of all motion.

Examination of her shoulders revealed no evidence of localized tenderness or of atrophy. There was no thoracic or parascapular tenderness. There was a full range of shoulder motion bilaterally. Neurological examination of the upper extremities revealed normal deep tendon reflexes, motor power and sensory perception.

Radiographs of the cervical spine revealed no evidence of fracture or dislocation. There was disc space narrowing at the C5-6 interspace with advanced spurting anteriorly and, to a lesser degree, posteriorly.

The material forwarded to me has been reviewed and in his "medical report" of March 12, 1982, Chiropractor Pavlov indicates a diagnosis of "acute traumatic hyperextension, hyperflexion type strain to the cervical spine causing spinal subluxations allowing for nerve root pressure". He does not list those symptoms or physical findings which may have substantiated his diagnosis. I have reviewed the three radiographs obtained on January 8, 1982 and note that the single lateral of the cervical spine demonstrates the same degree of cervical spondylosis as is present at the time of this examination. The two AP views are those of the head, neck, chest, spine and pelvis.

In his "medical report" of July 16, 1982, Chiropractor Pavlov notes "Acute exacerbation to condition occurred on January 19, 1982". He does not indicate that a new accident occurred. In his report of July 28, 1982, Dr. Tramer describes his examination of the claimant on July 26, 1982, approximately six months after the accident. He describes a "second episode of trauma", although it appears that the date is incorrect.

July 23, 1983

Mr. Charles H. Williams

Re: Ilana Korn

LII F01034

Page three.

In his "medical report" of September 21, 1982, Chiropractor Firster indicates diagnose with respect to the cervical and lumbosacral spine. He does not indicate the symptoms or physical findings which may have been present nor does he indicate the date of his initial examination. He does indicate the second accident which occurred and notes "The extended disability would not appear to be applicable to the original injury... The weakened state of the cervicospinal region served to contribute toward reinjury". Chiropractor Bestgen's interpretation of radiographs obtained on June 24, 1982 is noted:

Based on the information available to me, I believe the claimant was in a vehicular accident on January 6, 1982, and that she sustained a cervical strain. She then sustained a second injury, and, as noted above, this was more serious than the first and required additional treatment.

At the present time, she is still symptomatic. However, I believe these symptoms are on the basis of her pre-existent cervical spondylosis. Therefore, I believe that she will have no permanent disability directly attributable to the accident of January 6, 1982.

Very truly yours,

Dennis B. Brooks, H.D.

DBB/ann