

1 The State of Ohio, )  
2 County of Cuyahoga. ) SS:

3 IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

4 Shirley Barnhart,  
5 etc, et al,

6 Plaintiffs,

7 -vs-

CASE NO. 86876

8 Parma General Community  
9 Hospital, et al,

10 Defendants.

11 \* \* \*

12 Deposition of DENNIS BROOKS, M.D.,  
13 called as a witness by the Plaintiffs, taken  
14 before Kathleen A. Hopkins, a Notary Public within  
15 and for the State of Ohio, at the Offices of  
16 Dennis Brooks, M.D., Mount Sinai Medical Center,  
17 Beachwood, Ohio, on Wednesday, the 30th day of  
18 July, 1986, at 3:00 p.m., pursuant to agreement of  
19 counsel.

20 \* \* \*

## 1 APPEARANCES:

2 On behalf of the Plaintiffs:

3 Michael F. Becker, Esq.;

4 On behalf of Defendant Parma  
5 General Community Hospital::6 Weston, Hurd, Fallon, Paisley & Howley, Esqs, by  
7 Carolyn M. Cappel, Esq.;

8 On behalf of Defendant Dr. Rodriguez:

9 Jacobson, Maynard, Tuschman & Kalur Co., LPA, by  
10 Anthony Dapore, Esq.

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1 DENNIS BROOKS, M.D.,  
2 of lawful age, called as a witness by  
3 the Plaintiffs, being by me first duly  
4 sworn as hereinafter certified,  
5 deposed and said as follows:

6 CROSS-EXAMINATION OF DENNIS BROOKS, M.D.

7 BY MR. BECKER:

8 Q. Doctor, would you state your full name and  
9 spell your last name for us, please?

10 A. My name is Dennis Bruce Brooks. My last name  
11 is spelled B-R-O-O-K-S.

12 Q. I understand you have had your deposition  
13 taken many times before, is that correct?

14 A. I have had my deposition taken before, yes.

15 Q. Okay. Just to restate the rules, this is a  
16 question and answer session under oath. It is  
17 very important that you understand the question  
18 that I ask. If you don't understand the question,  
19 tell me, and I will attempt to rephrase or restate  
20 that question. Okay?

21 A. Fine.

22 Q. It is also important you answer verbally,  
23 because it is difficult for her to pick up a head  
24 nod. But unless you indicate otherwise to me, I  
25 will assume that you fully understand the question

1 that's been posed. Okay?

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. Your attorney has just a few moments ago been  
4 kind enough to hand me your CV. I haven't had a  
5 chance to really look at it. Is this current as  
6 of January of this year? What about  
7 publications? Are there any publications to be  
8 amended to this?

9 A. No new publications.

10 Q. You have a particular interest in  
11 biomechanics, would that be a safe statement?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you have a file on this case that I can  
14 look at?

15 A. Certainly.

16 Q. Do you know Dr. Weiss from Columbus?

17 A. No, I don't.

18 Q. Have you read his deposition?

19 A. No, I have not.

20 Q. Okay. What is your hourly rate for  
21 deposition?

22 A. My rate for a deposition is \$525 for the  
23 first two hours or any part thereof, and then \$250  
24 an hour thereafter.

25 Q. Can you tell me what you have reviewed

1 recently in preparation for this deposition, if  
2 anything?

3 A. Reviewed the hospital records again, reviewed  
4 Dr. Weiss' report and reviewed Dr. Weggs report,  
5 briefly looks at Dr. Rosenberg's report and  
6 reviewed some reprints of some articles about  
7 pulmonary embolism.

8 Q. What reprints are those, Doctor?

9 A. There is an article from the Journal of Bone  
10 and Joint Surgery written by Saltzman and Harris.  
11 It was in the Journal, Volume 58 A, No. 7,  
12 published in 1976; and an article from J.A.M.A.,  
13 Volume 225, Number 5, published July 30th, 1973,  
14 written by Everett and Alfidi, A-L-F-I-D-I.

15 Q. And how did you happen to get those articles?

16 A. Mr. Dapore gave them to me.

17 Q. Can you tell me how many times you have acted  
18 as an expert in malpractice cases before?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Can you give me a ballpark?

21 A. I have been in practice for 15 years. I  
22 don't know. Ten maybe.

23 Q. Ten times?

24 A. Maybe. I have no real --

25 Q. That includes reviewing, writing a report,

1 total of ten times?

2 A. My best recollection. I don't keep track of  
3 those things.

4 Q. And of those ten times, was that  
5 predominantly for the defense?

6 A. I don't know what you mean by predominantly.

7 Q. Well, what percentage of those ten would have  
8 been for the defendant?

9 A. I would say it's pretty equal.

10 Q. If I had an orthopedic malpractice case out  
11 in Lorain County and needed review, could I come  
12 to you for a review?

13 A. Certainly could.

14 MR. BECKER: Off the record.

15 (Discussion had off the record.)

16 Q. Of these ten occasions that you have cited,  
17 have any of them dealt with the subject matter of  
18 deep vein thrombosis and/or pulmonary embolism?

19 A. No, they have not.

20 Q. Can you cite me to some texts or journals  
21 that you would consider authoritative in the area  
22 of orthopedic complications?

23 A. I have trouble with the word authoritative.  
24 There are lot of texts that are published. There  
25 are certainly lots of journals that are

1 published. And in terms of complications, I  
2 suspect that the most widely read textbook would  
3 be Epp's book on Complications in Orthopedic  
4 Surgery. I personally have not read it.

5 Q. What book do you turn to personally?

6 A. It depends upon the subject.

7 Q. What about this subject matter?

8 A. This subject matter? I have not had the  
9 occasion to turn to any books in many, many years  
10 on this subject.

11 Q. All right. Would it be safe to say, Doctor,  
12 when this, when the potential for this situation  
13 arises clinically, you gain a consultation?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And that would be with an internist?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And would that be at Mount Sinai Hospital?

18 A. If the patient were hospitalized in Mount  
19 Sinai, yes.

20 Q. Okay. What other hospitals again do you have  
21 privileges at?

22 A. Hillcrest and Suburban Community Hospital.

23 Q. So it would be one of the three that you  
24 would gain a consult with an internist. Would an  
25 internist be a Dr. Rosenberg?

1 A. If, for example, if I were at Mount Sinai  
2 Hospital, it is with Martin or Dr. Rosenberg. I  
3 haven't had the occasion to be in that situation  
4 at Suburban or Hillcrest, so I don't know whom I  
5 would call.

6 Q. You have had an occasion at Mount Sinai to  
7 get a consultation in this subject matter in the  
8 past?

9 A. I was trying to -- let's define the subject  
10 matter so I can answer the question.

11 Q. Deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism.

12 A. I have not had a patient who has had deep  
13 vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolus in the  
14 hospital in the last eight or ten years. I mean,  
15 I can't remember.

16 Just this past week I had an elderly woman on  
17 whom I did a hip fracture that had some changes in  
18 her blood gasses postoperatively, and I asked Dr.  
19 Martin to see her. She did not have a pulmonary  
20 embolism.

21 Q. Did you order tests or was Dr. Martin the  
22 person that ordered the tests for this lady?

23 A. We did it concurrently.

24 Q. So the best you can recall, you haven't had a  
25 deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism case



1 for at least the last ten years, is that fair to  
2 say?

3 A. In the hospital, that is correct.

4 Q. Well, you say in the hospital; have you had  
5 one in the office?

6 A. Well, I just saw a patient two days ago that  
7 I was suspicious of having a calf thrombosis, and  
8 I referred him to his own internist. Okay. Who  
9 then saw him and is now presently managing it.

10 Q. Okay. Now, are you in partnership with  
11 another doctor in this office?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What is that doctor's name?

14 A. Dr. Zaas.

15 Q. Have you or he ever been sued in the area of  
16 deep vein thrombosis and/or pulmonary embolism?

17 MR. DAPORE: Objection. You can answer.

18 A. No, we have not.

19 Q. And when I say sued, I mean either a claim  
20 presented and/or litigation filed.

21 MR. DAPORE: Objection.

22 A. That is correct, we have not. The reason I  
23 hesitated, you just jogged my memory. And a  
24 number of years ago I was asked to be an expert in  
25 a case that involved deep vein thrombosis, and I

1 can't remember whether it also involved pulmonary  
2 embolism.

3 Q. Did you participate in that case?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you remember who asked you to participate?

6 A. I don't.

7 Q. Do you remember the name of the doctor that  
8 was sued?

9 A. Yes, I do.

10 Q. What's that doctor's name?

11 A. Moses Leeb.

12 Q. How do you spell that last name?

13 A. L-E-E-B.

14 Q. L-E-E?

15 A. L-E-E-B.

16 Q. And is he an internist or an orthoped?

17 A. No, he's an orthopedic surgeon.

18 Q. In the Cleveland area?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Is he still in the Cleveland area?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And was that litigation in the City of  
23 Cleveland?

24 A. It was in Cuyahoga County. I don't know what  
25 city it was in.

1 Q. Did you give a deposition at that time?

2 A. I have -- I don't recall.

3 Q. It's been about ten years ago?

4 A. I think so.

5 Q. You don't remember the plaintiff's attorney  
6 or the defendant's attorney?

7 A. No. I just remember some of the fact  
8 situation.

9 Q. Let me ask you this about that; were you  
10 acting on behalf of the plaintiff or the defendant  
11 in that particular case?

12 A. The defendant.

13 Q. Was anyone else involved in that particular  
14 piece of litigation; in other words, was a  
15 hospital sued as well or another doctor?

16 A. His associate may have been sued.

17 Q. And what would his name have been?

18 A. Kaffen, K-A-F-F-E-N.

19 Q. As best you know, the case was resolved? It  
20 didn't go to trial?

21 A. That is correct.

22 Q. Do you still have a file on that case?

23 A. No.

24 Q. You would not?

25 A. No.

1 Q. What are the symptoms of pulmonary embolism?

2 A. The patient who has a pulmonary embolism will  
3 oftentimes complain of shortness of breath, chest  
4 pain, sometimes a complaint of a nondescript but  
5 generalized feeling of none well-being, which is  
6 not very articulate, but they just say, you know,  
7 I just don't feel very well, something is  
8 bothering me. Depending upon the degree of the  
9 embolism and their associated reaction to that,  
10 they may complain of palpitations or rapid heart  
11 rate.

12 Q. All right. Can you have these symptoms that  
13 you have described, can you have them of and by  
14 themselves or do they always appear in groups,  
15 constellation?

16 A. I don't understand your question.

17 Q. Can you have one symptom of pulmonary  
18 embolism -- strike that question.

19 Let me ask you this, is it correct that  
20 clinical signs and symptoms of pulmonary embolism  
21 are nonspecific?

22 A. Again, I don't understand your question.

23 Q. Well, when I say specific, that is this  
24 condition is only present with pulmonary  
25 embolism.

1 A. If I understand your question correctly, the  
2 signs and symptoms or are we talking about  
3 symptoms? The symptoms of pulmonary embolism may  
4 be the same symptoms that are associated with  
5 other disease processes.

6 Q. So it is not specific. And do you understand  
7 what I mean when I use the word sensitive; that  
8 is, always present, that symptom is always  
9 present?

10 A. No.

11 Q. That is what I mean by sensitive. So my  
12 question to you now, sir, is would you agree with  
13 me that the clinical signs and symptoms of  
14 pulmonary embolism are nonsensitive?

15 A. Yes, I would agree with you in that, as I  
16 understand your question, there are signs and  
17 symptoms that may be present in pulmonary embolism  
18 that may be present in other diseases; and there  
19 are certain signs and symptoms that may not be  
20 present, even though an individual has a pulmonary  
21 embolism.

22 Q. Would you consider Anna Wagner, the deceased,  
23 at increased risk for deep vein thrombosis or  
24 pulmonary embolism?

25 A. In comparison to whom or to what?

1 Q. In comparison to a normal hospital patient.

2 A. Well, see, I can't define a normal hospital  
3 patient.

4 Q. All right. Let me ask it another way.

5 Doctor, are there certain things that predispose  
6 one to the condition of deep vein thrombosis and  
7 pulmonary embolism?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Tell me what they are?

10 A. Prior history of deep vein thrombosis,  
11 obesity, lower extremity trauma, in particular  
12 trauma about the hip or the thigh. Certainly  
13 there is an increased incidence of deep vein  
14 thrombosis in people who have undergone surgery  
15 about the hip and about the knee.

16 Q. Anything else?

17 A. Not that I can think of.

18 Q. Would you agree with me that the more  
19 predisposing factors there are, the higher the  
20 risk the person is for that condition?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Would you agree with me that because clinical  
23 signs and symptoms of deep vein thrombosis and  
24 pulmonary embolism are nonspecific and  
25 nonsensitive, it is the duty of the attending

1 physician to have a high index of clinical  
2 suspicion for pulmonary embolism, particularly  
3 among patients who are at increased risk?

4 MR. DAPORE: Objection to the form of the  
5 question. You can answer.

6 A. I can't answer that question yes or no. I  
7 think that a physician has an index of suspicion  
8 about this condition in a patient who has a number  
9 of risk factors, that is true. Just like he has  
10 an index of suspicion about other processes that  
11 also are nonspecific and nonsensitive.

12 Q. Well, do you have an opinion whether or not  
13 Anna Wagner was at increased risk to develop DVT  
14 and pulmonary embolism?

15 A. She was overweight, so therefore she may have  
16 had some increase in her risk with respect to a  
17 similar person with similar injuries who was not  
18 overweight. I'm not aware that she had any prior  
19 history of deep vein thrombosis. So I would say  
20 that she was perhaps slightly more at risk than  
21 another patient who had the same kind of injury,  
22 the same past medical history, who was not as  
23 overweight as she was.

24 Q. Would you agree with me that a physician who  
25 suspects pulmonary embolism has a duty to order

1 tests and attempt to confirm or rule out that  
2 suspicion?

3 A. If a physician has a suspicion of pulmonary  
4 embolus and if he talks to the patient and  
5 examines the patient and in his own mind feels  
6 that the patient does not have a pulmonary  
7 embolus, then, no, I don't believe that he needs  
8 to order specific tests.

9 If, however, after examining, talking to the  
10 patient, taking a history, examining the patient,  
11 he is still concerned that the patient may have  
12 had a pulmonary embolus, yes, I think he should  
13 then proceed.

14 Q. Well, let me ask that question another way.  
15 If a physician, after taking a history and talking  
16 to the patient, is still suspicious of pulmonary  
17 embolism, does the physician have a duty to order  
18 tests and attempt to confirm or rule that out?

19 MS. CAPPEL: Objection.

20 MR. DAPORE: Objection. It's been asked  
21 and answered. You can answer the question.

22 A. Under the assumptions that you have just  
23 given me, yes, I think a physician has a duty to  
24 order tests to confirm or rule out the suspicion  
25 of pulmonary embolus.



1 Q. Now, you have told me earlier about what the  
2 symptoms are of pulmonary embolism. If only one  
3 of those symptoms was present, would that make a  
4 reasonably prudent and cautious physician suspect  
5 pulmonary embolism?

6 A. No.

7 Q. That is what I want to get at. I want to  
8 know what symptoms have to be present in your mind  
9 for a reasonably prudent and cautious physician to  
10 suspect pulmonary embolism?

11 A. As a physician, I would never just rely on  
12 the patient's symptoms. And I can't answer your  
13 question and say, no; I can't.

14 Q. Well, what else would you rely on besides her  
15 symptoms and her history?

16 A. There are her symptoms. There are her  
17 physical findings, and there are what we refer to  
18 as the vital signs. You put all these things  
19 together, and if there are enough pieces that  
20 suggest it, then you become suspicious.

21 Q. Are you saying that if you saw in a postop  
22 orthopedic patient who had surgery in her lower  
23 limb, who was at increased risk for developing  
24 deep vein thrombosis, that if she only had the  
25 symptom of shortness of breath, you wouldn't

1 suspect pulmonary embolism?

2 A. That's right. If her only symptom was  
3 shortness of breath and there were no other  
4 symptoms and there were no other physical findings  
5 and there were no change in her vital signs, and  
6 more importantly if I could explain her shortness  
7 of breath on another basis, then, no, I wouldn't  
8 suspect pulmonary embolus.

9 Q. Okay. Assume the same fact situation, except  
10 add that there was a slight increase in  
11 temperature and there was at least one episode of  
12 increased pulse rate.

13 A. Well, again, those are, as you pointed out,  
14 nonspecific and nonsensitive findings. The  
15 increase in temperature is normal in postoperative  
16 patients for a variety of reasons, even without  
17 infection. Increased pulse rate certainly can be  
18 a normal or an expected finding in a postoperative  
19 patient and doesn't necessarily indicate that  
20 she's had a pulmonary embolism.

21 Q. Well, I guess I've got to understand from you  
22 what symptoms in a postop orthopedic patient who's  
23 had surgery in her lower limb, who is at some  
24 increased risk, what symptoms have to be present  
25 in your mind for you to suspect pulmonary

1 embolism?

2 MR. DAPORE: Objection. Asked and  
3 answered.

4 A. Yes, I thought I answered that. And they are  
5 the same symptoms that I mentioned before.

6 Q. Okay. Maybe I'm missing it. You're saying  
7 that every one of those symptoms have to be  
8 present before you are --

9 A. No, I am not saying that. I guess maybe I'm  
10 not understanding your question. Let's try it  
11 this way.

12 If I walk into the room and I see a patient,  
13 and the patient tells me I have had some shortness  
14 of breath, already I am starting with a  
15 differential diagnosis.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Okay. Everything from being short of breath  
18 because they have just been ambulating and they  
19 are just tired, to being short of breath because  
20 they have a little postoperative atelectasis to a  
21 pulmonary embolism to hyperventilation because  
22 they are nervous. Okay?

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Fine.

25 Q. You have at that point, Doctor, you have a

1 duty to make further inquiry of the patient, would  
2 you agree with that, as to --

3 A. Yes. I got hung up on the word duty. You  
4 know, I consider myself a good physician. Duty or  
5 not, I'm going to ask, try to find out what's  
6 wrong with this patient, so I will ask them some  
7 more questions.

8 Q. What more questions would you ask?

9 A. When did your shortness of breath occur, how  
10 long did it last, what was it related to, is this  
11 the first episode that you have had, have you had  
12 shortness of breath before; those kinds of  
13 questions.

14 Q. You would agree with me, it would be your  
15 duty to ask those under those circumstances that  
16 you have just given us?

17 MR. DAPORE: Objection. Asked and  
18 answered.

19 MS. CAPPEL: Objection.

20 A. If you like the word duty, I will use the  
21 word duty that is what I would do, duty or not.  
22 You know, nobody's looking over my shoulder.

23 Q. Well, what is the appropriate standard of  
24 care? When I say duty, I'm saying what's the  
25 appropriate standard of care?

1 A. Yes, that is what a wise and prudent  
2 physician would do.

3 Q. And that is consistent with the appropriate  
4 standard of care?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. All right. Go ahead.

7 A. It is your turn. I have answered the  
8 question.

9 Q. It's my turn. You were going to tell me you  
10 were going to make -- you were going to ask them  
11 further questions?

12 A. After asking them all these questions, then  
13 I'd examine them. And I'd listen to their lungs,  
14 for example. I'd check their calf or their calves  
15 that were accessible. And then I would have to  
16 make some further decisions. Either I was  
17 convinced on the basis of that examination that  
18 the shortness of breath was due to some factor  
19 other than the pulmonary embolism or I was still  
20 concerned about it.

21 Q. This examination that you have described  
22 after you made the inquiry, that would also be  
23 consistent with the appropriate standard of care,  
24 wouldn't it, Doctor?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. All right. These symptoms that you have  
2 described that you feel are consistent with  
3 pulmonary embolism, can they be transient?

4 A. Generally not.

5 Q. Your answers to that is no?

6 A. In medicine there is never, never, never,  
7 never an always, so that is why my answer was  
8 generally not.

9 Q. So you would expect then, if someone had, was  
10 throwing a pulmonary embolism, that if they were  
11 experiencing shortness of breath that that would  
12 be over a long period of time?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What is your opinion as to the cause of Anna  
15 Wagner's death, if you have one?

16 A. I don't have an opinion as to her cause of  
17 death.

18 Q. Do not?

19 A. Do not.

20 Q. Is your opinion that it's just as possible or  
21 probable that she had died from a fat embolism as  
22 compared to pulmonary embolism?

23 A. No, that is not my opinion.

24 Q. You don't have an opinion one way or the  
25 other as to her cause of death, just so that I

1 fully understand you?

2 A. That is correct, I do not.

3 Q. So if I told you what a certain expert would  
4 say, you would say you don't agree or disagree;  
5 you don't have an opinion one way or the other on  
6 the cause of death, is that correct?

7 A. That is correct, I do not have an opinion as  
8 to her cause of death.

9 Q. Have you heard of the study, the Urokinase  
10 Pulmonary Embolism Trials?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Never heard of that?

13 A. If I did, I would have answered yes the first  
14 time.

15 Q. Sometimes I don't hear too well.

16 Is there any certain period of time  
17 postoperatively when a pulmonary embolism  
18 generally appears?

19 A. I can't answer that question.

20 Q. You can't answer it yes or no?

21 A. That's right. It's too broad. It has two  
22 very broad parts to it.

23 Q. What are the symptoms of deep vein  
24 thrombosis?

25 A. Symptoms of deep vein thrombosis may include

1 calf pain, calf cramping, pain with ambulation.

2 Q. What about pain in the popliteal fossa area  
3 of the knee?

4 A. That may be a symptom of deep vein  
5 thrombosis.

6 Q. What about warmth in the area of the knee?

7 A. You have to be a little more specific. The  
8 knee is, believe it or not, a big anatomical area.

9 Q. What about on top of the knee?

10 A. No.

11 Q. On the side of the knee?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Underneath the knee?

14 A. Behind the knee?

15 Q. Behind the knee.

16 A. Can be.

17 Q. What about change in color around the knee?

18 A. Same question.

19 Q. Okay. Let's start at the top. Top of the  
20 knee?

21 A. I don't speak the law very well, but I can  
22 answer your questions better if we talk medicine.  
23 Let's call the top of the knee the anterior, the  
24 back of the knee the posterior, the outside of the  
25 knee the lateral and the inside of the knee the



1 medial.

2 Q. I'm just struggling with the law here, so go  
3 ahead.

4 A. So the anterior aspect of the knee, no;  
5 medially, possibly; laterally, no; posteriorally,  
6 possibly.

7 Q. Can a short leg cast cause popliteal fossa  
8 pain?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Why would that be?

11 A. A short leg cast, if for example it is  
12 applied above the tibial tubercle, may cause pain  
13 in the popliteal fossa as the individual attempts  
14 to bend their knee and the posterior aspect of the  
15 cast impinges upon the posterior soft tissue.

16 In addition to that, if an individual is  
17 non-weight bearing or partial weight bearing  
18 because they're in a short leg cast, they have to  
19 keep their knee bent, and that can be a cause of  
20 pain in the popliteal fossa.

21 Q. If one had pain in the popliteal fossa area  
22 that was, in other words, she was experiencing  
23 this pain while she was on bed rest, would that be  
24 explainable away as to the cast?

25 A. Just so I understand your question, if the

1 patient only had pain while they were on bed rest  
2 in the popliteal fossa?

3 Q. Right.

4 A. Could that be explained by the cast?

5 Q. Yes, sir.

6 A. It might be. Couldn't really say without  
7 seeing the cast.

8 Q. Is your opinion that one of the signs of easy  
9 fatigueability and diminished exercise is  
10 shortness of breath?

11 A. Would you read back the question, please?

12 (Notary read back last question.)

13 Q. Diminished exercise tolerance. I am reading  
14 Tony's question.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Doctor, I'm going to give you a hypothetical,  
17 and I'm going to ask you then if that is  
18 substandard care or not. All right?

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. I want you to assume that you have a patient  
21 that is a postop orthopedic patient, had surgery  
22 in her lower limb, and she is at some increased  
23 risk for the development of deep vein thrombosis  
24 and pulmonary embolism, and she has an episode of  
25 shortness of breath that resulted in a house

1 physician being called by the nursing staff.

2 Assume further, that the attending orthopedic  
3 physician saw the patient shortly after the house  
4 physician saw the patient, but not at the same  
5 time.

6 And assume further, that the orthopedic  
7 physician makes direct inquiry to the patient.  
8 The patient responds that she is fine now, but  
9 she's had some problems with shortness of breath.

10 Assume further, that the doctor makes no  
11 further inquiry and makes no examination of her  
12 leg and orders no further diagnostic tests for  
13 her.

14 Do you have an opinion whether or not that  
15 conduct would be substandard care?

16 MR. DAPORE: Objection to the form of  
17 the question. You can answer.

18 A. Yes, I have an opinion.

19 Q. What is your opinion?

20 A. That is not substandard care.

21 Q. Tell me why.

22 A. The patient had a complaint of shortness of  
23 breath. When the orthopedic surgeon saw the  
24 patient, she said that she was fine. She no  
25 longer had that symptom. The patient had been

1 examined by a house physician. And I'm assuming,  
2 although you didn't state it in your hypothetical  
3 either way, that the house physician found nothing  
4 abnormal and there was nothing communicated to the  
5 orthopedic surgeon. And, therefore, there would  
6 be no reason to pursue this matter any further.  
7 The patient said she had an episode of shortness  
8 of breath and she was fine now.

9 Q. Excuse me. Maybe I didn't make myself  
10 clear. Maybe you misunderstood me.

11 Assume that the patient says, I have had some  
12 problems, problems plural, with shortness of  
13 breath.

14 A. I have an opinion, and my opinion is that  
15 that is substandard care.

16 Q. How is it that you know Mr. Dapore or how is  
17 it that he came in contact with you for this case,  
18 if you can tell me?

19 MR. DAPORE: Objection. You can  
20 answer.

21 A. I know Mr. Dapore because he is one of the  
22 attorneys at Physicians' Insuring Exchange.

23 MR. DAPORE: Move to strike.

24 Q. I mean, what is it about that fact that -- I  
25 mean, do you work for them, Physicians' Insurance

1 Exchange?

2 MR. DAPORE: Objection.

3 A. I work for myself. On occasion I am asked to  
4 consult for Physicians' Insuring Exchange just as  
5 I am by other organizations.

6 Q. Other defense firms?

7 MR. DAPORE: Move to strike.

8 A. By plaintiffs' firms as well as defense  
9 firms.

10 Q. There is a journal article that I am trying  
11 to get my hands on. It is entitled, Treatment of  
12 Pulmonary Embolism in Total Hip Replacement. Is  
13 that one of the articles that Mr. Dapore sent  
14 you?

15 A. The two articles, and again it may be a  
16 matter of semantics, that I referred to was  
17 Thromboembolism After Total Hip Reconstruction.

18 Q. By an English author, English orthoped,  
19 Charney or something, starts with a C?

20 A. No, the English -- that is not the article.  
21 The English orthoped's name is Charnley.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. And I have not reviewed an article by  
24 Charnley about embolism.

25 MR. BECKER: That's all I have, Doctor.

1 Do you have any questions?

2 MS. CAPPEL: Just a couple.

3

4 CROSS-EXAMINATION OF DENNIS BROOKS, M.D.

5 BY MS. CAPPEL:

6 Q. Doctor, do you have any opinion that what Dr.  
7 Go, the house physician, did or failed to do  
8 amounted to substandard care?

9 A. I don't understand your question.

10 Q. Well, as I understand it, you reviewed the  
11 Parma Community Hospital records and various other  
12 expert's reports in this case?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. After review of those records do you have any  
15 opinion with regard to any of the actions or  
16 failure to act, if you hold that opinion, with  
17 respect to Dr. Go, the house physician at Parma  
18 Community Hospital?

19 A. Yes, I have an opinion.

20 Q. What is your opinion?

21 A. That there was nothing that Dr. Go did that  
22 fell below the standard of care.

23 Q. Do you have any opinion that what anybody  
24 from Parma Community Hospital did or failed to do  
25 amounted to substandard care?

1 A. Yes, I have an opinion.

2 Q. What is your opinion?

3 A. There was nothing in the records that I  
4 reviewed that indicated that any of the employees  
5 of Parma Community Hospital who were identified in  
6 those records -- off the record, because I don't  
7 know about the cleaning lady and all those other  
8 folks, back on the record -- that was below the  
9 standard of care.

10 MS. CAPPEL: Thank you. I have nothing  
11 further.

12 MR. BECKER: Would you explain waiver to  
13 him, Tony?

14 MR. DAPORE: You have a right to have it  
15 transcribed so that you can read it for  
16 corrections or you can waive your right. The  
17 choice is yours.

18 THE WITNESS: I will waive my right with  
19 the proviso that if we do go to trial in this  
20 matter and Mr. Becker tries to discredit me  
21 because I misspoke or you didn't understand me, we  
22 can explain it at the time of trial.

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I, Kathleen A. Hopkins, a Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the within-named witness, DENNIS BROOKS, M.D., was by me first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in the cause aforesaid; that the testimony then given by him was reduced by me to stenotype in the presence of said witness, subsequently transcribed into typewriting under my direction, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony so given by him as aforesaid.

I do further certify that this deposition was taken at the time and place as specified in the foregoing caption, and was completed without adjournment.

I do further certify that I am not a relative, counsel or attorney of either party, or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Elyria, Ohio this 18th day of August, 1986.

Kathleen A. Hopkins  
Kathleen A. Hopkins, Notary Public  
My commission expires 1-8-90  
Recorded in Lorain County, Ohio