

1 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE
 2 NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR
 3 ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA
 4
 5

6	TAMARA BLACK, individually	*	
	and as natural parent and	*	
7	friend of JAHIDA BLACK, a	*	
	minor,	*	
8		*	
	Plaintiff,	*	
9		*	
	versus	*	
10		*	
	LAWNWOOD REGIONAL MEDICAL	*	CASE NO: 91-1516-CAO-I
11	CENTER, INC., ROBERTA	*	
	SCHAPIRO-HUNTER, M.D.,	*	
12	INDIAN RIVER MEMORIAL	*	
	HOSPITAL, INC., a Florida	*	
13	Corporation, EMSA LIMITED	*	
	PARTNERSHIP, LTD., a	*	
14	Florida limited partnership,	*	
	and FERNANDO MIRANDA, M.D.	*	
15		*	
	Defendants.		

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 17
 18 The testimony of ELIAS GEORGE CHALHUB, M.D.,
 19 taken at the 3217 Executive Park Circle,
 20 Mobile, Alabama, on the 8th day of October,
 21 1992, commencing at approximately 2:00 p.m.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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CAROL CARMACK
COURT REPORTER

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1 ELIAS GEORGE CHALHUB, M.D., having first
2 been duly sworn to tell the truth, the whole
3 truth, and nothing but the truth, was examined
4 and testified as follows:

5

6 DIRECT EXAMINATION

7

8 BY MR. LUCAS:

9 Q Doctor, could you please state your full
10 name?

11 A Elias George Chalhub.

12 Q And your current address?

13 A 1720 Spring Hill Avenue, Mobile, Alabama.

14 Q And you are a physician?

15 A I am.

16 Q And in what specialty do you practice?

17 A In neurology with special competence in
18 child neurology.

19 Q Just prior to this deposition you gave me a
20 CV. Can I take it that this is the most recent CV
21 that you have?

22 A Yes.

23 Q So we will probably attach that as Exhibit

1 A **or** Exhibit 1 for the plaintiff.

2 (PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT 1 RECEIVED AND
3 MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

4 **BY MR. LUCAS:**

5 **Q** Doctor, were you employed by either a law
6 firm **or** a party to be a witness, particularly an
7 expert witness, in this case of Tamara Black against
8 Lawnwood Regional Medical Center, et al.?

9 A Yes.

10 **Q** By whom are you employed?

11 A By **Mr.** Gay.

12 **Q** At what time chronologically were you
13 employed by him?

14 A I believe sometime in the fall of 1991.

15 **Q** At that time, were you employed for
16 purposes of trial, if that was to be necessary, **or**
17 were you simply consulted to give your advice?

18 A No. I assume that that was if it proceeded
19 to that, that I would testify at trial.

20 **Q** In what specific areas were you asked to
21 review **or** to provide expert opinions?

22 A In the area of causation and life
23 expectancy of this child.

1 Q Were there any other areas?

2 A **No.**

3 Q Were there any subdivisions of those areas
4 between causation and life expectancy in which you
5 were asked to give opinions?

6 A Well, give me some examples. I'm not sure
7 I know what you mean.

8 Q Okay. What I'm trying to do is to make
9 sure that I include **all** of the areas in which you
10 have or were asked to give opinions, and if there's
11 something that would not be included within
12 causation or life expectancy, I'd like to know that,
13 and if I'm missing anything.

14 A I don't know what you're alluding to. I
15 don't know what a subdivision of that is.

16 Q Let me put it this way. Can you give me
17 the opinions that you have formed as to causation as
18 completely as possible and in general before we go
19 into any specifics?

20 A Sure. This child suffered a viral
21 meningoencephalitis which resulted in severe and
22 global brain damage.

23 Q When you say severe and global, what does

1 that mean?

2 A Severe, I don't know how to define that
3 other than bad and diffuse, involving the entire
4 brain.

5 Q That's what you mean by global?

6 A Correct.

7 Q I may ask you some words that have become
8 extremely clear to me during the process of this
9 litigation, but would not be fair to someone hearing
10 the deposition **or** the testimony for the first time,
11 such as a lay person on a jury.

12 A Okay.

13 Q There are also instances where,
14 notwithstanding the fact that I've been involved
15 with this litigation for some time, I do have
16 difficulty with some medical terminologies, so I ask
17 you to put it into layman's terms?

18 A I will be happy to.

19 Q And, as you've already done, if there's
20 something I ask which is not clear, whether it be a
21 word, phrase **or** paragraph, please let me know, and
22 I'll do my best to rephrase the question so it will
23 be clear.

1 A Sure.

2 Q Can you describe with greater detail the
3 specific infection **or** virus **or** disease that affected
4 this child?

5 A Yes. I believe that this child suffered a
6 viral meningoencephalitis, most likely due to an
7 enterovirus, which resulted in vascular and direct
8 injury to the brain of this child.

9 Q Can you state with any degree of medical
10 probability at what point it becomes clear, from
11 what you have reviewed, that she had had this viral
12 infection, at what point in time?

13 A At the time that the child began having
14 focal seizures and then had a lumbar puncture.

15 Q And that would be when?

16 A Sometime at Indian River Hospital, I
17 believe on either the **23rd or** 24th.

18 Q While we're on that point, may I ask you
19 what you have reviewed in this case, what was sent
20 to you?

21 A Okay. The Lawnwood Regional Hospital's,
22 Indian River Hospital's, Good Samaritan Hospital's,
23 the University Hospital records; New Medico; Dr.

1 Charash's report, Dr. Greer's report, some
2 encephalitis statistics from the state of Florida.
3 An affidavit of Dr. Massey. of Dr. Garlisi,
4 G-A-R-L-I-S-I; a report of Dr. Charash, an affidavit
5 of Dr. Reddick; **CT** scans of **7-23**, **7-25-89** and an MRI
6 scan; then about some twenty-odd depositions of Dr.
7 Hutto, Dechoney (phonetic), Cullen, Garlisi,
8 Reddick, Singer, Thornton, Whitley, Hunt, Black,
9 Barriff (phonetic), Greer, Bailey, Schapiro-Hunter,
10 Inwood, James -- I can't read my writing -- is it
11 Murray?

12 MR. GAY: Massey.

13 A Massey. I'm sorry. Hosea Fernando
14 Miranda, Mirante (phonetic), Sherry Goldsmith and
15 Janice Hill.

16 BY MR. LUCAS:

17 Q I do not remember your mentioning Dr.
18 Charash's deposition. Did you read that? Was that
19 included in that list?

20 A I don't believe I have his deposition.

21 Q Okay. And do not have the report.

22 How do you then -- have you received any
23 reports of the nurses from Lawnwood Regional Medical

1 Center who were on duty the night that Jahida Black
2 went there, particularly Nurse Rosenberg and Nurse
3 Grundin?

4 A I don't believe so.

5 Q Have you read Nurse Macklin's deposition?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Have you had described to you in a summary
a fashion at all the deposition of Dr. Barrell that
9 was taken one or two days ago? He was the emergency
10 room physician at Indian River Hospital.

11 A No.

12 Q In earlier depositions, some people have
13 received copies of all medical records, and some
14 have received summaries or abstracts of some
15 records. Did you receive the bulk of all of those
16 records?

17 A Yes, I did.

18 Q Did you rely on all the materials that you
19 have mentioned in formulating your opinion?

20 A Well, certainly, I took all of the
21 deposition testimony into consideration, Obviously,
22 I rely on the medical records.

23 Q Am I safe in assuming that you are not

1 going to be testifying on any issue that deals with
2 standard of care? That's different than causation.
3 That's why I'm asking the question.

4 A Right. I'm not at this time. That's
5 correct.

6 Q Are you anticipating that you will be in
7 the future?

8 A Well, I mean, if Mr. Gay asks me to, then
9 I'm sure he will notify you, and I'll be glad to
10 give you my opinions. But at this time, no, I've
11 not been asked to do that.

12 MR. GAY: I will also say, if it's
13 comforting, that I don't have any intention of
14 asking Dr. Chalhub to testify on standard of
15 care issues.

16 BY MR. LUCAS:

17 Q Okay. July 22nd is the date on which a
18 first contact was made with Lawnwood Hospital, and
19 July 23rd was the date on which contact was first
20 made with Indian River Hospital. Earlier, I had
21 asked you within a reasonable degree of medical
22 probability when it could be defined as to when the
23 viral infection affected this child, and you

1 indicated when the focal seizures started to appear.
2 And I believe that was at Indian River Memorial
3 Hospital. With or without any degree of medical
4 probability, can you eliminate the possibility of
5 the virus having been present in the child prior to
6 that time in the hospital?

7 A Present where?

8 Q Within the child.

9 A But where in the child?

10 Q Well, the viral infection, anywhere in the
11 child?

12 A Well, I think it would be unlikely to have
13 been present in the central nervous system on the
14 22nd. And, you know, whether the fever was a result
15 of the viral infection on the 22nd, I don't think I
16 can tell you that.

17 Q Why would it be unlikely?

18 A The child really had no symptoms related to
19 that.

20 Q What are the symptoms that would be related
21 to that, to a viral infection of the central nervous
22 system?

23 A Seizures, stiff neck, bulging fontanel,

1 positive lumbar puncture, rash, increased liver,
2 increased spleen, clotting studies that are
3 abnormal, elevated liver function studies.

4 Q You do not mention a fever. Would fever be
5 a symptom?

6 A Oh, it can, but it's really not very
7 specific. It's not very specific.

8 Q But would fever be a symptom?

9 A May or may not be.

10 Q What about lethargy or a lack of activity
11 in the child's activity?

12 A What about it?

13 Q Would that, in your -- would that also be
14 an indication of a viral infection or possible brain
15 damage or possible brain infection?

16 A Well, certainly not of brain damage. I
17 mean, I think you can be lethargic after a meal.
18 You can be lethargic as a result of medication, as a
19 result of fever from any source. But, you know,
20 it's very nonspecific.

21 Q Dr. Barrell testified when he saw this
22 child in the emergency room in Indian River
23 Hospital, that he was given the history of the

1 child's having a temperature of a hundred and one to
2 a hundred and three degree temperature and a history
3 of lethargy, which he also observed and put in his
4 own writing in the records, but for a two-day
5 period.

6 He testified also that he considered this
7 enough cause to order a variety of tests, including
8 some of those that you've mentioned, including a
9 lumbar puncture, which happened to prove positive,
10 and as he wrote in his own handwriting and testified
11 to that two days ago. That's why I asked you
12 whether you had seen all of that.

13 These same symptoms that he saw were also
14 seen at Lawnwood and no others. And I guess I have
15 to ask why would it not be -- why would -- if it was
16 enough and sufficient for Dr. Barrell to observe
17 these symptoms on the morning of the 23rd, why those
18 same symptoms would not also have been indicating a
19 viral infection on the 22nd?

20 MR. GAY: Excuse me. Let me object to
21 the form of the question and the
22 hypotheticals. And, also, the question
23 doesn't quite get there, I don't think, where

1 you want to be. But you can answer it if you
2 can.

3 A I don't understand the questions or what
4 you want me to comment on. I mean, you've got a lot
5 of if, and's, but's and --

6 BY MR. LUCAS:

7 Q I don't have any if, and's or but's at all.
8 I'm telling you --

9 A Well, I don't understand the question, so
10 I can't answer it.

11 Q Dr. Barrell looked at two symptoms in
12 particular himself in the emergency room, and that's
13 when he ordered -- he ordered the lumbar puncture,
14 which proved positive. And he considered both of
15 those symptoms, a high degree of -- a high
16 temperature that had existed over a period of two
17 days plus a reported state of lethargy, to be
18 symbolic of either meningitis or a brain infection.
19 And that's why he ordered those tests. Those same
20 symptoms were presented on July 22nd when the
21 patient visited Lawnwood.

22 The question is: If those were symptoms
23 enough to initiate Dr. Barrell's taking the tests,

1 much of which you have suggested here, why would it
2 not be the day before?

3 MR. GAY: Object to the form and
4 the accuracy of the hypothetical.

5 A Well, first of all, the child is described
6 as alert and responsive the day before, so certainly
7 the child wasn't lethargic. Second of all, it's a
8 day's difference. And third of all, it's Dr.
9 Barrell's observation in examination of the child,
10 which is also a day different. And if that's the
11 only two things that he would base that on, then I
12 would tell you that Dr. Barrell probably did too
13 many lumbar punctures, and you will just have to ask
14 him why. I can't comment, you know, on what are his
15 reasons for it.

16 But just based on fever and lethargy,
17 unless the child looked considerably different than
18 is recorded, it would certainly not cause me to do
19 anything differently,

20 Q The day before, no tests -- you mentioned
21 that the day before the child was seen as alert.
22 That was by Dr. Schapiro-Hunter?

23 A Correct.

1 Q And on the same medical record, it
2 indicates that the child was lethargic by the triage
3 nurse and then after by Nurse Grundin. Both of them
4 defined what lethargic meant in their depositions.
5 That's why I asked you whether you had received
6 them. Are you ignoring what the nurses observed as
7 opposed to what the doctor has stated?

8 A No. I mean, it says here that's by
9 history, chief complaint. Okay? The observation is
10 by the physician, who describes the child as alert.

11 Q The nurse, Rosenberg, who was the triage
12 nurse, testified that she saw the child, and those
13 were also her observations, And Nurse Grundin -- or
14 whoever wrote the second indication, were making her
15 own observations, not on the history of the child
16 shortly before discharge.

17 MR. GAY: Object.

18 BY MR. LUCAS:

19 Q So it's not totally based on history,
20 according to their testimony, although that was the
21 history that was also given to them. Were these
22 observations somewhat different than Dr.
23 Schapiro-Hunter's? Would you -- are you setting

1 those aside and accepting just Dr.

2 Schapiro-Hunter's?

3 MR. GAY: Object to the question
4 entirely, both as to form, and it's
5 argumentative. And he says he's never read
6 their depositions, but he's based his testimony
7 on what he said in the medical record. But
8 answer the question.

9 A You know, this is what the record states.
10 And, you know, children with fever can appear at
11 times to be inactive, and that's not unusual. The
12 issue is what they appear to on exam by a trained
13 observer, who is a physician that's going to be
14 examining the child, and also is the impression at
15 that time; and then, also, with the lack of any
16 other symptoms.

17 Q When you say "trained observer," what do
18 you mean?

19 A I'm talking about a physician.

20 Q And what makes a particular physician a
21 trained observer?

22 A Four years of medical school, internship.

23 Q So graduation from law (sic) school and

1 licensing from the state would make that physician a
2 trained observer of all cases that came before that
3 physician?

4 **A** Wait **a** minute. You said graduating from
5 law school.

6 **Q** I meant medical school.

7 **A** Well, repeat your question.

8 **a** Graduation from medical school and
9 licensing in a particular jurisdiction, in this case
10 Florida, that would be sufficient to make any
11 physician a trained observer?

12 **A** It certainly would give them the
13 credentials to be a trained observer, and if they
14 have passed an accredited medical school and have a
15 licensure, sure.

16 **Q** This particular physician who first saw the
17 child at Lawnwood did not examine the fontanel; as a
18 matter **of** fact, did not order any of the tests which
19 would have produced any of the results that you're
20 talking about, either with the spleen or lumbar
21 puncture or anything else. How would that physician
22 **be** able to make a determination as to whether that
23 child had a major viral infection, if not making an

1 examination or ordering the tests, which you say
2 would indicate the presence of the viral infection?

3 MR. GAY: Object to the form of the
4 question, particularly the statement she didn't
5 examine the fontanel, and she didn't record an
6 examination.

7 A That's correct. You'll have to ask the
8 doctor. But there certainly is no record, either by
9 the nurses, by the physician, by anybody, that such
10 existed, nor did anybody find an enlarged liver or
11 spleen when the child went to the next facility or a
12 third facility. **So**, you know, even if they did it,
13 it wasn't there.

14 Q You said you read the deposition of Dr.
15 Schapiro-Hunter?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Did you read the description of what she
18 did when she saw and examined this child?

19 A Well, I read the deposition, but I read
20 over twenty depositions. If you want to get it out,
21 I'll be glad to look at it.

22 Q I'm asking you if you recall what she did?

23 A I can't recall, you know, all these pages

1 by memory, but since it's not a memory contest, I'll
2 happy to **look** at it.

3 Q Those items are also not listed on the --
4 none **of** those things that you've listed, including
5 the examination of the fontanel, is listed in the
6 medical report.

7 A That's usually by observation. So, I mean,
8 it's something that, if it's not present, most
9 people don't record.

10 Q Can you say with certainty, first of all,
11 that the virus was not present on July 22, 1992?

12 MR. GAY: Object to the form of the
13 question. And, Paul, I don't do this to be
14 confusing, but what he's testified to is his
15 opinion as to when the virus was present in the
16 central nervous system. When the virus was
17 present in the body, he says he doesn't know.

18 But **go** ahead and answer if you can.

19 A Repeat your question.

20 BY MR. LUCAS:

21 Q I'm asking, first of all, if you can say
22 with certainty that the viral infection was not
23 present in this child in the child's central nervous

1 system on July 22nd?

2 A I've already said that, I can't say it any
3 different. Within a reasonable degree of medical
4 probability, it's my opinion that it was not present
5 in the central nervous system on July the 22nd.

6 Q The question I asked was -- it's the second
7 question has been asked. The first one is: With
8 certainty, which is not medical probability and it's
9 not -- I mean, more likely than not, but with
10 certainty, that it was not present in the child at
11 that time? It's not the required legal standard for
12 an opinion, but I wanted to know how certain you
13 were that that disease did not exist at that time in
14 the child?

15 A What disease?

16 Q The viral infection that affected and
17 caused the brain damage she had.

18 A Well,. I can tell you unequivocally the
19 viral infection that caused this child's ultimate
20 problem didn't exist in the child on the 22nd.

21 Q How?

22 A Well, by my knowledge, my experience, my
23 training, my understanding of the proper physiology

1 and by the evidence present in the chart.

2 Q You're experience wasn't present on July
3 22nd because you personally did not examine the
4 child; is that correct? I mean, you didn't see the
5 child on July 22nd.

6 A That doesn't have anything to do with
7 assimilating the data and understanding the
8 pathophysiology and in understanding what's written
9 in the chart and --

10 Q I understand --

11 A Let me finish, Mr. Lucas.

12 Q **No.** Because you're not answering the
13 question.

14 A But you can't interrupt me. Okay?

15 Q I can. If you're not giving me a
16 responsive question, I will.

17 A You can --

18 Q It's one that requires a simple yes or no.
19 It's a simple answer, and we're going to get to the
20 very point that you want in just a moment because --

21 MR. GAY: Madam Reporter is going to
22 have a most difficult time if we don't get one
23 at a time here. What you're going to have to

1 do, Paul, if we continue with this deposition,
2 is whether you like his answer or whether you
3 don't like his answer, is let him finish it and
4 then tell him --

5 MR. LUCAS: I'm not going to --
6 because I've watched -- you know, I have here
7 about six, seven, different depositions that
8 Dr. Chalhub has given, all for the defense. And
9 in each instance -- in each one of these
10 depositions, there is a constant attempt to
11 avoid, on certainly a direct question and
12 certainly an answer to the question that hasn't
13 been asked. We're probably going to get to the
14 very subject matter that you want to discuss,
15 but I'd like to do it in my way and not in
16 yours.

17 THE WITNESS: Well, Mr. Eucas --

18 MR. LUCAS: Because you've just told
19 me that based on your experience and your
20 background that you're going to come to a very
21 strong opinion, and I want to go back and just
22 establish a few facts which are very, very
23 simple, And than I'm going to go on and ask you

1 how you can apply that experience in these
2 circumstances.

3 Now, the first one was simply that you did
4 not see the child on July 22nd.

5 MR. GAY: Well, that's a stupid
6 question, Paul. Of course he didn't. I mean,
7 let's not waste our time here.

8 BY MR. LUCAS:

9 Q And you have not seen the child any time
10 since that time?

11 MR. GAY: Of course he hasn't. I
12 mean, sure.

13 BY MR. LUCAS:

14 Q Is that correct? I don't think you've
15 examined the child.

16 A First of all, you know, I take offense to
17 your remarks because that's not the case. Second of
18 all, either we can give each other the courtesy of
19 allowing -- if you want me to allow you to finish
20 the question, I'll be happy to. And if you'll let
21 me finish my answer, I'll be happy to. Because
22 regardless of whether you want it, I mean, I have my
23 own opinions and my own thought processes, and I

1 will think that way, whether you like it or not.

2 **So** you'll have to accept that. You may not
3 like it, but you can tell me that and ask me to
4 explain it, and I'll be happy to, But you are not
5 going to design the answers for me the way you want
6 them.

7 Q Well, I won't allow you --

8 A **So** I don't want to argue with you.

9 Q -- to direct my questions --

10 A I'm not trying to.

11 Q -- the way you want to.

12 A I will answer your questions. If you don't
13 like it or don't understand it, then state it, and I
14 will do my best to answer the question.

15 Q Whether I like it or not is immaterial, but
16 I do want to get some answers. I want to be as
17 specific as possible.

18 A And I would like to be.

19 Q I think, judging from your **CV**, that you
20 have a very broad experience, and judging from all
21 of these depositions that you have a broad
22 experience. And it's a compliment, and a sincere
23 compliment. But that does not explain to me how,

1 with all of this experience, you can be so certain
2 about something that did or did not exist at a
3 certain period of time, especially given the fact
4 that with all of the experts we've talked to in this
5 case, nobody has come forward with that strong a
6 feeling. So I want to penetrate this concept of
7 experience and background and education and find out
8 specifically what it is that gives you the basis for
9 that opinion.

10 MR. GAY: Or you might ask him why
11 he's so certain, and he'll tell you.

12 MR. LUCAS: That's what I'm trying to
13 get at, but not with generalizations: with
14 specific --

15 THE WITNESS: Well, don't add in all
16 the other peripheral stuff which has nothing to
17 do with the questions and answers, Mr. Lucas.
18 Just ask the question and let's get on with it.

19 MR. LUCAS: Well, I'm sure that you're
20 experienced in answering and asking questions,
21 and I guarantee you, so am I. And we just are
22 -- but I really did not anticipate having this
23 difficulty, but I know you've had it with one or

1 two other attorneys, and I have found you didn't
2 have it with some. And I was hoping that we
3 would find ourselves in the latter category.

4 THE WITNESS: Well, I have a lot to
5 do and I'm a busy **person** --

6 MR. LUCAS: **So** am I and so do I.

7 THE WITNESS: I want to answer these
8 questions and leave. **So** let's get on with it.

9 BY MR. LUCAS:

10 Q Well, I want to know the basis upon which
11 you can assert that this child did not have a viral
12 infection that was affecting the central nervous
13 system on July 22nd.

14 A Based on these records and based on what's
15 recorded, in my opinion, the child does not have the
16 symptoms or the signs that are consistent with that.
17 Second of all, based on the subsequent course and
18 the subsequent profile of this child, it's also not
19 consistent.

20 Q How do you know the child does not have the
21 symptoms if there is no record there and there are
22 no tests that are taken at Lawnwood to indicate some
23 of these symptoms? Some of the things would have to

1 be taken under certain tests. You just can't look
2 at a child from the outside and know whether there's
3 going to be a problem with the spleen or a problem
4 with the liver. There's nothing there. So how
5 would you know at that time?

6 A I don't understand your question.

7 Q I can't understand exactly how you're
8 coming to the conclusion you do, and I'm trying to
9 get at it. We know that fever can be a symptom of a
10 variety of things, including a viral infection,
11 Most of the experts I've had have said that a change
12 in the child's behavior, the child's activity or
13 lethargy, can also be a symptom.

14 Now, you've given other indications that
15 there can be other symptoms, also, of this viral
16 infection, and that those other symptoms are not
17 present when the child is examined on July 22nd; is
18 that correct?

19 A I don't understand that question.

20 Q Well, let's start from the beginning, then.
21 Can fever be a symptom of a viral infection?

22 A Sure. I've already told you that.

23 Q All right. And can a lethargic state also

1 be a symptom of a viral infection?

2 A Sure.

3 Q Now, you've also indicated, if we go
4 through these slowly, what other indications you
5 would like to see present to indicate that the child
6 had a viral infection of the central nervous system.
7 Those would be what?

8 A Now, that's a different question. You said
9 a viral infection, and now you're saying a viral
10 infection of the central nervous system. What do
11 you mean?

12 Q You are the only person to date -- this is
13 no criticism -- to separate the viral infection that
14 we're talking about that caused the brain damage,
15 and that's the only one I'm concerned about.

16 A I beg your pardon. A number of people in
17 their depositions have separated that.

18 Q Well, I have not found them separated in
19 the way you --

20 A Perhaps you need to reread them.

21 Q Perhaps I do. But I'm sure that you're
22 going to help me understand and walk through them at
23 the present time.

1 A Well, I'm trying to. But your questions
2 are -- you're changing them each time, so I can't be
3 consistent.

4 Q Well, that might be true, but I keep
5 running into stone walls and not answering the
6 question, so I'm trying to rephrase them in a way
7 that I can get some answers.

8 A Ask your question. I'm trying to answer
9 it.

10 Q Okay. Well, we understand that -- let's
11 talk about viral infections. And at all times I am
12 going to talk about a viral infection **of** the nervous
13 system?

14 A No. Don't do that. Tell me exactly what
15 you mean.

16 Q That's what I'm going to mean. Right now,
17 I am going to tell you that when I am talking about
18 a viral infection, I am going to talk about the
19 viral infection of the central nervous system, the
20 type of viral infection that can cause the brain
21 damage that this child suffered from.

22 A Okay.

23 Q I'm not going to talk about a viral

1 infection like flu **or** a cold or anything else. The
2 type **of** encephalitic infection that we believe
3 caused the brain damage of the child -- I think we
4 all agree that the child is permanently brain
5 damaged by some viral infection. A fever can be a
6 symptom **of** that type of viral infection. Lethargy
7 can be a symptom of that viral infection, though it
8 also can be -- they can be symptoms of other things.

9 A Sure, anything is possible.

10 Q Now, I am saying, let's go through those
11 other symptoms that you would like to see present to
12 indicate the actual existence of a viral infection
13 to the central nervous system, which you do not
14 believe are present on the 22nd?

15 A That's correct.

16 Q Those would be?

17 A Focal seizures that are persistent.

18 Q All right. Now, the focal seizures were
19 not visible **or** present by everybody's testimony when
20 the child went on the 22nd to the hospital?

21 A Absolutely.

22 Q According to the testimony of the -- and I
23 don't remember -- I do remember you certainly read

1 the Black depositions, but I don't know whether you
2 also read the depositions of the two neighbors who
3 were Brenda and Rosa Mae Hunt.

4 A Yes, I did.

5 Q Okay. Now, they are indicating that they
6 made a telephone call, indicating not only was there
7 an increase in temperature, which the Tylenol and
8 antibiotic did not affect, but that the child was
9 also having, according to one of them, seizures;
10 according to the others, jumping and flopping up and
11 down off the mat on the floor. And this occurred on
12 the night of the 22nd.

13 A That's certainly not in the record, and
14 that's certainly not what is recorded by the nurse
15 nor told the nurse. So I don't think it's difficult
16 -- and I'm not saying one way or the other, but when
17 somebody says seizures, I believe if they were told
18 that, they would have recorded that.

19 Q So you're going to -- discounting, then,
20 what the parents -- what the mother and the two
21 neighbors say occurred on the night of the 22nd?

22 A No. I'm saying what's recorded here and,
23 also, what's consistent, the child didn't have any

1 seizures when it got to Indian River. And the child
2 that's continuously flopping on the floor or having
3 seizures doesn't stop for five hours and just
4 without any medicine, without anything, and then
5 start having them. I mean, that's unusual.

6 Q If it's not exactly written as you see in
7 the emergency room records from July 22nd -- 23rd,
8 then it doesn't happen?

9 A No. I'm just saying that's inconsistent
10 with what's in the records. If that were occurring,
11 why wouldn't somebody take the child to the hospital
12 right then?

13 Q Did you read the deposition of Nurse
14 Macklin?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Nurse Macklin testified that she had a
17 five-minute telephone call with a fifteen-year-old,
18 who at that time was not identified either as the
19 mother **or** Tamara Black. Subsequently, we are to
20 believe that that was the mother. From those five
21 minutes, we have two or three lines that are written
22 down. Nurse Macklin also testified she does not
23 know whether another call was made or not. She

1 says, to her, it was not made, but she doesn't know
2 whether one was made.

3 If we assume that the call -- and I'm going
4 to ask you to make this assumption -- if we assume
5 that the calls are made as they are described by the
6 Blacks and by Rosa Mae Hunt, and we add seizures to
7 a temperature that's spiking up to a hundred and
8 five degrees, and we also have a history of several
9 hours of temperature that has not been reduced by
10 Tylenol or antibiotics, and we have a child who is
11 also reported as having continuous periods of
12 lethargy and virtually no activity, do we then have
13 more reason to suspect that there may be a viral
14 infection of the central nervous system?

15 MR. GAY: Object to the form.

16 A You've got fifteen questions there. Ask me
17 which one you want me to answer.

18 BY MR. LUCAS:

19 Q I'm putting all of those together.

20 A I can't remember them all. Why don't you
21 just try to be a little more specific? Are you
22 asking me --

23 Q Assume, first of all, that the calls that

1 the Blacks and Rosa Mae Hunt made were made as they
2 say they were. Assume that fact right from the
3 start.

4 A Which is certainly not recorded or in
5 evidence; is that correct?

6 Q Well, it is in evidence. It is not
7 recorded on that record.

8 A Well, it certainly is not recorded --

9 Q I'm asking you to make the assumption that
10 those calls were made just for the purposes of these
11 questions.

12 A What are they specifically saying?

13 Q They are saying that, number one, the
14 temperature not only has not gone down, but that it
15 has gone up as high as a hundred and five degrees
16 and no less than a hundred and two degrees, despite
17 the antibiotics and the Tylenol that were
18 prescribed, and which they say were given to -- that
19 the child, when awake, remains in a very lethargic
20 state and is not active; and three, that the child
21 is having seizures. They're reporting this.

22 A Well, that's inconsistent.

23 Q Those things are reported.

1 A Well, that's inconsistent, so those
2 observations can't be correct.

3 Q Well, why are they inconsistent?

4 A Because you can't have seizures and be
5 awake and lethargic. I mean, you've got to have --

6 Q Why? Are you saying that you must have
7 seizures consistently?

8 A No. Usually, you have a postictal period.
9 So that's inconsistent, but I will accept that. Go
10 ahead.

11 Q You're saying that -- well, I take it
12 you're not suggesting that seizures would have to be
13 on a continuous basis?

14 A I didn't say that.

15 Q Okay. Then, in those periods when the
16 child is not having seizures, why would it be
17 inconsistent **for** the child to be essentially
18 listless **or** lethargic or not acting as it normally
19 did prior to its first visit to the hospital?

20 A Well, you're saying one thing, then you're
21 saying another; that the child is jumping and
22 flopping off the floor. And children -- generally,
23 children that do that and have a seizure that severe

1 are postictal. They don't move. They're absolutely
2 immobile, and that's not what's described. So you
3 can't have it both ways, and I'll be glad to take it
4 whichever way you want.

5 Q Well, the mother is reporting it in the
6 only language she knows, and she's not reporting
7 seizures. Rosa Mae Hunt's live-in companion has
8 seizures. It's something she's seen and is saying
9 the child has seizures. I see this happen to my
10 live-in companion.

11 A Yeah. But doesn't it bother you that
12 you -- you know, that the young lady that Rosa Mae
13 Hunt was telling had seizures, would not tell that
14 to the nurse?

15 Q I believe that she did tell it to the
16 nurse. She testified that she told it to the nurse.
17 And I've asked you to assume that she told it to the
18 nurse, yes, in those words, and why she was using
19 that word. I'm asking you to assume that to be
20 true.

21 A Okay.

22 Q So if we have the two symptoms that were
23 present, at least according to the nurses, and again

1 present in terms of the change of the attitude,
2 behavior, spiked temperature up to a hundred and
3 five, a hundred and two, and seizures, would not
4 those three be indications of a viral infection to
5 the central nervous system?

6 A Oh, its possible, sure.

7 Q If you were a physician at the hospital in
8 that emergency room or you happened to be called in
9 as a consultant, and you happened to be at the
10 hospital, and the child had a temperature of a
11 hundred and two **to** a hundred and five, maybe
12 varying, but somewhere in between there, and the
13 child's behavior had changed dramatically, and you
14 had either focal seizures, or you happened to see a
15 general seizure, would you as a physician recommend
16 either tests **or** observations or anything for that
17 child?

18 MR. GAY: Let me just do this. If
19 your going ask him those kind of questions,
20 I'm going **to** withdraw my stipulation as to
21 the scope **of** this testimony. We stipulated
22 that he would testify as to causation or
23 whatever. **Now** you're asking him standard of

1 care questions and what he would do. If you
2 truly want to get into that, I'll just have
3 to withdraw my stipulation because I'm not
4 going to have him both questioned on that
5 and then be limited to what he can testify
6 to at trial.

7 BY MR. LUCAS:

8 Q Okay. You're withdrawing your stipulation.
9 My question is not directing -- I'm not trying to
10 criticize him, but I'm trying to, again, get at the
11 question of symptoms and how you would react to
12 them. What constitutes symptoms? What constitutes
13 enough to warrant further activity?

14 A Oh, I mean, as you were presenting it, I
15 think it would be prudent for a physician to see
16 that child. But, again, I'm saying I have not
17 reviewed this from the standard of care, and I am
18 not at this point testifying --

19 Q I understand.

20 A But, given the -- you know, the rather
21 profound and dogmatic outline that you've given,
22 which is not the way I understand the facts, because
23 they're surely not on the chart, yeah, I mean, I

1 have no problem with seeing the child, and I think
2 the child ought to be seen.

3 Q If the child were seen, would you then **be**
4 recommending some of these other tests, such as the
5 lumbar puncture, or looking at the spleen or looking
6 at the liver and doing other things under those
7 circumstances?

8 A That would depend on my assessment of the
9 child at the time the child returned.

10 Q Did you give any -- I know you did this,
11 but did you give any -- did you come to any
12 conclusions as **to** what type of viral infection this
13 child -- specific viral infection this child may
14 have had?

15 A Well, since there is really no culture or
16 serology to indicate anything, based on the course
17 of this child, based on the pattern of damage and
18 based **on** the epidemiological data, I would say it's
19 most likely an enteroviral infection.

20 Q Which means what?

21 A Which means exactly that.

22 Q **All** right, Doctor. Do you have any
23 specific types of viral infections that might

1 be?

2 A Cocksackie, echo adenovirus.

3 Q You're using terms that I have not --

4 A There are no other terms, Mr. Lucas.

5 That's it.

6 Q Could it be a herpes simplex encephalitis
7 virus?

8 A No. I think that's unlikely. I think
9 anything is possible, but that it would unlikely.

10 Q Why would that be unlikely?

11 A Well, you have, first of all, no antibody
12 studies that are positive. You have no culture
13 that's positive. In fact, the antibody studies
14 would suggest that it's a type two; at least, that
15 there were only antibodies present, and it was
16 certainly not a type one.

17 Q You're talking about tests from where? Are
18 you talking about the ones done at University
19 Hospital?

20 A Well, collectively, or do you want to talk
21 about the studies done at Lawnwood or at Indian
22 River? You asked me about the etiology, and I was
23 giving you the reasons.

1 Q Okay. And I'm trying to -- and you have
2 given me a specific reference to a particular test,
3 and I believe that the only place that that was done
4 was at University Hospital, but I may be wrong.

5 A No. You're right. But you didn't ask me
6 at which hospital. You asked me --

7 Q No, no. I understand that, and I
8 interjected a second question to make sure I knew
9 which test you were talking about.

10 A Well, if you'll re-ask your question,
11 because I don't think I know what you want.

12 MR. GAY: Just so we don't get
13 something inaccurate in the record. The tests
14 were drawn twice. They were sent in once and
15 that was the University Hospital.

16 BY MR. LUCAS:

17 Q I want to know why, Doctor, and if it was
18 not a herpes -- in your estimation, it was not a
19 herpes simplex encephalitis specifically, then what
20 it might have been besides that? This is ultimately
21 where I want to get.

22 A Well, I told you --

23 Q I'm trying get there by steps, and the

1 first one is -- all right. If you do believe, in
2 your opinion, that it is not herpes simplex
3 encephalitis, I'd like to know why. And I've -- and
4 before you answer, let me explain why.

5 It's just that at the beginning we have a
6 diagnosis of a viral infection a couple of days,
7 meningitis by Dr. Thornton, the pediatrician. When
8 we have a diagnosis made of the transfer the child,
9 we go into the herpes encephalitis at University
10 Hospital, They proceed with the infectious disease
11 physician on that basis. It becomes a conclusion
12 made by the treating neurologist at the hospital,
13 and she's treated at the Medical Center, according
14 to the records, for opposed peripatetic encephalitic
15 condition.

16 Now, somewhere along the line people made
17 conclusions that it was. And the various physicians
18 that I have asked, I've asked whether the condition,
19 her clinical condition and development, was
20 consistent with that type of infection. The
21 response has usually been yes, even though it may
22 also be consistent with other infections. Given
23 that, I'm trying to -- and since you have a strong

1 opinion on this, I just want to get down to the
2 basis as to why it would not be or couldn't be, in
3 your opinion, to a reasonable degree of medical
4 probability, herpes simplex encephalitis.

5 MR. GAY: Object to the **form** of the
6 question. The whole preamble has nothing to do
7 with the question. But you may certainly answer
8 that Past question; that is, why in your
9 opinion, is it not.

10 A Well, I've told you that, first of all, and
11 at this age, in July, the -- and with this pattern
12 of injury, number of cells, it would be unlikely due
13 to herpes simplex and more likely, as the consultant
14 at University Hospital suggested, enterovirus, which
15 is what I've **told** you.

16 And because all of your preamble to that
17 question is not entirely accurate, so I'm not
18 agreeing to that. I'm just telling you why I think
19 it's herpes -- I mean, why I think it's an
20 enterovirus.

21 Q What would be one of those other viruses,
22 then? What's the name of those?

23 A Coxsackie.

1 Q What are the symptoms there?

2 A There's an anesthetizing
3 meningoencephalitis with vascular insult in a child
4 under a year of age.

5 Q So you're considering the child's age as a
6 major consideration of what type of virus a child
7 might have had?

8 A Age, time of the year.

9 Q Anything else?

10 A Pattern of injury on the CT scan.

11 Q What does that mean?

12 A Just what it says.

13 Q I don't know what you mean by "pattern of
14 injury on the CT scan."

15 A The pattern of the injury demonstrated on
16 the x-ray.

17 Q I understand the words, Doctor. I don't
18 understand what you mean by them.

19 MR. GAY: That's fine. Ask him to
20 explain it, then.

21 MR. LUCAS: I just have three times.

22 MR. GAY: No, you haven't. You want
23 to read it back? You haven't asked him to

1 explain one time. You've said you don't know
2 what he means. But go ahead.

3 MR. LUCAS: And I don't know.

4 MR. GAY: Well, he can't help it if
5 you don't know. You can ask him to explain it.

6 BY MR. LUCAS:

7 Q Explain to me what you mean.

8 A The CT pattern is that of a diffuse
9 bilateral cortical and subcortical injury, which --
10 and my experience and, I think, in the experience of
11 the literature is more consistent with a diffuse
12 involvement on a vascular basis, not a predominantly
13 temporal lobe necrosis that babies see with herpes
14 simplex type one.

15 Q Is there any way you can break that down
16 into a little simpler language?

17 A That's about the best I can do.

18 Q Anything else besides the cat scans,
19 pattern of injury, the age of the child or the time
20 of the year?

21 A Oh, I think those are the predominant ...

22 Q What is important about the time of the
23 year?

1 **A** Well, it's in July. That's the --
2 certainly the time that you see the enteroviral
3 infections at their highest peak or other types of
4 viral infections, other than herpes.

5 **Q** **How** frequently does that type of an
6 infection appear?

7 **A** Well, depending on where you are, in what
8 part **of** the country, sometimes you can see two to
9 three hundred cases per summer.

10 **Q** Does that type of infection have any other
11 common names that are more readily available?

12 **A** That's it, Coxsackie echo enteroviral
13 meningoencephalitis.

14 **Q** Those are general terms.

15 **A** No.

16 **Q** There are viruses included within those --

17 **A** No, they're specific terms, very specific.

18 **Q** Did you consider the possibility of any of
19 the other viruses that were mentioned by some of the
20 physicians, beginning with, say, St. Louis, Eastern
21 equine. I think California was mentioned by some.

22 **Any** of those viruses?

23 **A** Well, other than California, it would be

1 unlikely. An Eastern equine certainly is a
2 possibility. St. Louis is a possibility. I mean,
3 Western equine **is** unlikely, and Eastern equine is a
4 possibility, I think it's unlikely that's it's
5 Epstein-Barr.

6 Q What about the age of the child indicates
7 to you that it may not be herpes simplex
8 encephalitis?

9 A Well, I think in most people's experience
10 the enteroviruses are more common at this age than
11 herpes simplex.

12 Q I guess what bothers me is we're looking
13 at -- if I understand correctly, the reasons we're
14 considering another virus here, that you're looking
15 at something other than herpes simplex, is because
16 it occurs in July, in the middle of summer, because
17 the child is seven months of age, and because **of** the
18 pattern **of** injury in the CT scan.

19 A Yes. And, certainly, the initial serology
20 would not **be** suggestive **of** it. There was no culture
21 positive. I mean, those are pretty strong.

22 Q Doctor, the strongest of those would appear
23 to me to be the **CT** scan or pattern of injury. And

1 let me see if I can't develop something else. Have
2 you done any -- are you aware of any studies, or
3 have you done any studies on herpes simplex
4 encephalitis and the numbers of people it affects
5 below the age of one year?

6 A No, I have not done any studies.

7 Q Are you aware of any studies?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Can you give me those studies, or can you
10 give me -- and as well as the results of those
11 studies?

12 A Well, I can't -- you know, I can't recall
13 all the data. There are numerous articles written
14 by Charles Alford, by Sergio Stagno (phonetic), by
15 Andre Namnius (phonetic), by Stole (phonetic);
16 Richard Whitley, Ralph Figun (phonetic);
17 Sheldon Kaplan.

18 Q I've read some studies of two of the people
19 that you've mentioned. I don't recall anything
20 dealing specifically with the lack of commonness of
21 herpes simplex encephalitis, particularly with
22 children below the age of one or two years of age or
23 anything for that -- that's what I'm out looking

1 **for.**

2 A I'm sorry.

3 Q Can **you** give me any guidance as to where I
4 might find that?

5 A Well, I've given you the names. I can't --
6 you know, I can't tell you by memory.

7 Q I've got to ask this: Are you saying that
8 within a reasonable degree **of** medical probability
9 that a child of seven months **of** age could not have
10 herpes simplex encephalitis in the state of Florida
11 in the month **of** July?

12 A No, no. I did not say that; have never
13 said that. You asked me what I thought was the most
14 probable wild etiology, and based on the fact, based
15 on the laboratory data, based on my experience,
16 based on my understanding of the literature, it
17 would be an enterovirus. It's possible that it's
18 another virus. There's no evidence to suggest that
19 it is herpes.

20 Q No evidence at all to suggest that it is
21 herpes?

22 A No.

23 Q Doctor, what do you think -- do you think

1 that when the child presented herself to Dr. Barrell
2 in the emergency room in Indian River Memorial
3 Hospital, did this child have a viral infection of
4 the central nervous system?

5 MR. GAY: Object the form of the
6 question. The child didn't present herself. Go
7 ahead.

8 A Well --

9 BY MR. LUCAS:

10 Q The child was presented by her parents.

11 A Well, certainly, at that time -- you know,
12 again, the child was really pretty much the same as
13 the -- in terms of the -- as was described. But I
14 believe that more probable than not, the child
15 probably did have involvement of the nervous system
16 at that time.

17 Q Doctor, I don't know whether you have them
18 in front **of** you **or** not, but do you recall where Dr.
19 -- well, first **of** all, **do** you recall that **Dr.**
20 Barrell's lumbar puncture had a positive result?

21 A What do you mean by a positive result?

22 Q Well, he indicates that there was a
23 positive laboratory finding when he ordered for a

1 lumbar puncture, And I wanted to ask you, first of
2 all, whether you remembered that in the record, and,
3 secondly, whether you remembered exactly what that
4 finding was?

5 A **No.** He didn't indicate it was positive.
6 Did you have a specific question about it?

7 Q Yesterday in his testimony and two days ago
8 when he pointed to the record where he placed it in
9 the record himself that he had a positive result of
10 the lumbar puncture test that he had to the
11 laboratory, and the reason I remember that
12 distinctly is because he said, that's my writing and
13 my note. All the other tests he had were negative,
14 but that was the one exception.

15 A Can you show me where he said that?

16 Q That would be on the -- I think the second
17 page of the note from Indian River Hospital where he
18 indicates the tests on the right-hand side. And
19 he's **got** a note indicating positive, if you have
20 those records in front of you.

21 A Are you asking whether it's abnormal? I
22 don't know what you mean by positive. Positive is a
23 lot of things.

1 Q First of all, did you review the records of
2 the lumbar puncture that were taken or ordered by
3 Dr. Barrell at Indian River Memorial Hospital?

4 A I did.

5 Q Was there anything there consistent, in
6 your opinion, with herpes simplex encephalitis?

7 A Well, it may possibly be consistent. There
8 was an increase, small increase, in number of cells.
9 But, again, the usual number of cells with herpes
10 simplex is over a hundred: usually in the hundreds,
11 And, you know, I believe it was -- let's see. --
12 fourteen or nineteen cells; nineteen cells, nineteen
13 white blood cells. Yes, that is abnormal.

14 Q Could that be a symptom along with the
15 other symptoms of herpes simplex encephalopathy?

16 MR. GAY: Excuse me. Let me object.

17 It's not a symptom. But go ahead.

18 BY MR. LUCAS:

19 Q Well, let me go way back at the very
20 beginning of the deposition when I first began
21 asking you what would be the symptoms of a viral
22 infection of the central nervous system, which would
23 include herpes simplex encephalitis. One of the

1 things you said was positive L.P. puncture, which we
2 have there. Now, if we're changing the terminology,
3 that's fine with me. But that was one of the things
4 you said at the very beginning.

5 A Well, I don't believe that was your
6 question. You asked me what it was that led me to
7 believe that that was the case. Now, a symptom is a
8 physical finding. This is a laboratory test. I
9 mean, we're talking about semantics. But this is a
10 laboratory finding.

11 Q I understand, But if we went back --
12 because you were mentioning as a whole group of
13 things, it began with seizures. Seizures -- the
14 next thing, I think, was a bulging fontanel, and the
15 third or fourth item -- because I think I missed the
16 third item -- the fourth one was a positive L.P.
17 puncture.

18 A Well, it's a laboratory test --

19 Q It's a laboratory test --

20 A -- which you use in your evaluation.

21 Q I understand. But would that be
22 symptomatic of -- and maybe it is just a matter of
23 terminology, and I'll be glad to change the

1 terminology. They all came out together at one time
2 or symptoms. You can divide between symptoms and
3 indications that there's a major viral infection,
4 however you want to do it. Tell me how to do it,
5 and I'll --

6 A Well, first, it doesn't decide whether it
7 was major or minor. Okay? It's an indication that
8 there is an inflammatory response in the central
9 nervous system. Okay? And that's nineteen cells
P0 and it is abnormal. I don't call that positive.

11 Q What would you call positive?

12 A Well, it depends on what you're asking.
13 Positive for what?

14 Q Well, I'm asking now for indication of an
15 infection of the central nervous system by viral
16 infection. I'm using your words, positive **L.P.**
17 puncture.

18 A **No**, no. I didn't say positive- Those are
19 your words.

20 Q Well, okay. Well, I'll put these in quotes
21 from the beginning when I asked you what would be
22 the indications **or** what we would be looking for, if
23 we could find a major viral infection of the central

1 nervous system. The words positive L.P. puncture
2 were said by yourself in a completely different
3 countenance. Dr. Barrell also used the term
4 positive results with the L.P. puncture.

5 A Well, let's put it up abnormal. Positive,
6 you have to tell me, you know, what you're referring
7 to in what context. Now, if you're talking about
8 positive culture, no, there's no positive culture.
9 In terms of abnormality of the spinal fluid as
10 compared to a normal child at that age, yes, I agree
11 it is abnormal.

12 Q Most of the time when I have tests -- or
13 most of the doctors I speak with, when they talk
14 about having a negative result, they usually
15 indicate that things are normal; go home; it's not a
16 problem. As a matter of fact, Dr. Barrell referred
17 to all of the other tests that he took as negative
18 because everything he took appeared to be normal.
19 When he used the word positive, and he specifically
20 also attached to that, that he (sic) was abnormal.
21 You've used the word positive, and I assume -- only
22 assume, apparently incorrectly, that when I said
23 positive L.P. puncture, that meant something that

1 was abnormal or unusual, not --

2 A I don't know what you're hung up on. Dr.
3 Barrell is entitled to express things the way he
4 wants. You know, and if you are asking me now in
5 this context the response to this question, I would
6 refer to the spinal fluid as abnormal or normal;
7 cultures as positive **or** negative.

8 Q Okay. That wasn't quite the terminology
9 you used originally.

10 A Sir, it was in a different context. Okay?
11 I think there was more of the question. But I'm
12 telling you, forget **all** that. I'm answering the
13 question as I understand it now this way.

14 Q That abnormality **of** the lumbar puncture
15 would be consistent with a variety **of** infections **of**
16 the nervous system; is that correct?

17 A That is correct.

18 Q Included within which could be herpes
19 simplex encephalitis?

20 A Yes.

21 Q **As** well as those viruses which you have
22 specifically mentioned and believe affected this
23 child?

1 A Yes, alone and only alone; not taken into
2 context with everything else and the clinical
3 condition and the evolution of things and the
4 subsequent clinical picture.

5 Q We're talking -- when you say, "alone,"
6 we're just talking about right now, the --

7 A Nineteen cells.

8 Q We're not talking about with anything else?
9 That's just taken by itself?

10 A You don't practice medicine based on one
11 test.

12 Q I understand. For the type of viral
13 infection you believe this child had, where does a
14 child normally obtain or acquire this type of
15 infection?

16 A In the respiratory system or
17 gastrointestinal tract.

18 Q Is it usually from an intake of water or
19 food or contact with people?

20 A Usually contact.

21 Q And if a child takes this viral -- this
22 type of viral infection, can this affect the child
23 in a way that it doesn't affect the central nervous

1 system?

2 A Sure.

3 Q Is that the normal way in which that type
4 of virus affects the child? In other words, it does
5 not affect the central nervous system?

6 A Viral infections aren't normal, so, no.

7 Q If a child normally obtains the type of
8 viral infection you believe this child had, does it
9 usually strike the central nervous system?

10 A You don't acquire viral infections,
11 normally. I don't know what you mean.

12 Q Let's try to change the words a little so I
13 can be clear and you can be. Let's assume that a
14 child -- that children acquire the type of viral
15 infection which you believe this child has acquired.
16 Once the child has acquired that virus, does it
17 normally affect the central nervous system, or does
18 it normally affect the child in another manner?

19 A Well, I don't think anybody really knows
20 that answer because you don't do spinal taps on a
21 large number of those children. But the majority of
22 them will have headache, fever, myalgia. And if you
23 did spinal taps on those, I'm sure a lot of them

- 1 would have cells in their spinal fluid.
- 2 Q Would a lot of them suffer from this type
3 of severe brain damage that this child suffered
4 from?
- 5 A No. A small number.
- 6 Q Okay. So could you give that in
7 percentages?
- 8 A No. Because I don't know how many have
9 involvement of the central nervous system. I'm not
10 sure anybody knows that.
- 11 Q How would the -- when -- how would the
12 infection move to the central nervous system? What
13 would normally be the process by which it would
14 affect the brain as this brain has been affected?
- 15 A It's usually blood borne.
- 16 Q Can you give any type of estimate as to the
17 number -- you said small number -- what percentage
18 at all, ball park?
- 19 A You have to know what percentage have
20 cells, and I don't think anybody knows that.
- 21 Q Assuming the child had the type of viral
22 infection which you believe the child had, from the
23 objective, scientific evidence -- well, let me go

1 back again. Two questions I want to ask. Other
2 than -- and I want to put aside age, and I want to
3 put aside time of the year. Other than the CT scan
4 pattern of injury, is there anything else that you
5 see in the record from a scientific viewpoint in an
6 objective record from the tests that were taken that
7 points to that particular type of viral infection?

8 A Well, really, all of the things I've said,
9 when you take them collectively.

10 Q So the only scientific thing there that
11 we're talking about is the position or the pattern
12 of injury in the CT scan?

13 A No.

14 Q Okay. What else?

15 A No. I mean, that's not -- everything is
16 scientific. Maybe I don't know what you mean by
17 scientific. I mean, the practice of medicine is
18 scientific. The interpretation of data is
19 scientific. Epidemiological data is scientific.

20 Q The fact that a child is --

21 A Wait a minute. You're interrupting me.

22 Q I'm asking for what in the tests taken
23 anywhere in all of the work that was done on this

1 child before she arrived at New Medico other than
2 the -- anything, the position of the injury, of the
3 CT scan, points to the viral infection that you
4 believe this child had?

5 A I've given you those, both the positive and
6 the negative. And I don't know what you mean by New
7 Medico. You're talking about New Medico.

8 Q It's the facility where she's presently
9 located.

10 A Oh, okay. Excuse me,

11 Q That is following University Hospital.

12 A Okay.

13 Q When she went to Good Samaritan, she went
14 to Good Samaritan from New Medico. New Medico is
15 a --

16 Q Well, I'm aware of what New Medico is, but
17 I didn't know what you meant in the context of this.

18 Q Okay. Essentially, by the time she gets
19 there, people have already made the determination,
20 right or wrong, that she's suffering from a herpetic
21 and encephalitic condition. What they're really
22 treating is the status she now has, not the
23 causation of the disease.

1 A There is no question that she suffered from
2 meningoencephalitis. I don't think there's any
3 question about that.

4 Q Is there any way of scientifically making a
5 determination that she did not have that infection
6 when she first arrived at Indian River Memorial
7 Hospital on the morning of July 23rd?

8 A I don't know what you mean by that.

9 Q Well, seizures become extremely important
10 as the child's at the hospital, at Indian River.
11 They increase in intensity and increase in number.
12 They're observed at least once an hour, and the
13 parents are reporting them more frequently to the
14 nurses, who only go in once an hour. By this time
15 most of the experts have talked and believe that
16 that infection is rather apparent. It's current.
17 It's there when she's at Indian River Hospital, Is
18 there any scientific way of eliminating the
19 possibility that it existed at the time she came
20 into the hospital?

21 MR. GAY: Object to the form of the
22 question. But go ahead.

23 A Scientific ways of eliminating what?

1 BY MR. LUCAS:

2 Q In other words, was it possible she had the
3 infection when she went into the hospital at
4 seventy-thirty in the morning at Indian River?

5 A Sure. I told you an hour ago it was
6 possible.

7 Q These seizures do not have to occur
8 concurrent with the infection when it first strikes
9 the central nervous system. Would that be a fair
10 statement?

11 A Now, which infection are you talking about?
12 Are you talking about infection --

13 Q A viral infection of the central nervous
14 system --

15 A Any viral infection --

16 Q -- that can cause the brain damage of this
17 child. Seizures occurred at some process of that
18 infection, and she has seizures now. She will
19 always have seizures.

20 A Well, I don't know about that. So what's
21 your question?

22 Q The point is that she could have had the
23 infection, and it could have been penetrating her

1 central nervous system without her having seizures.

2 A Yeah. But how are you supposed to know
3 that?

4 Q Well, that's just the question. You don't
5 know whether she does or not. She could have had
6 the infection without having evidence through
7 seizures.

8 A Sure. Anything is possible, but it's
9 certainly not evident.

10 Q You've indicated that within -- two things;
11 with a medical degree of medical probability, she
12 had the viral infection of the central nervous
13 system at some point when she was at Indian River
14 Memorial Hospital, You've also indicated in your
15 opinion within a reasonable degree of medical
16 probability that she did not have that infection at
17 Lawnwood.

18 A No. You asked me if I thought it was more
19 probable than not, and I think it's more probable
20 than not she did not. Anything is possible.

21 Q Okay. Doctor, I'm really not trying to
22 trick you.

23 A But I want to make sure that you

1 understand what I'm saying and that there's no
2 misunderstanding. See, you tend to ask questions
3 vague and then try to be specific and paraphrase me,
4 which is incorrect.

5 Q What I try to do --

6 A Your paraphrasing me is incorrect.

7 Q I do try and ask general questions then
8 become more specific.

9 A Don't paraphrase me. Just ask me and then
10 answer the question -- let me answer my own
11 questions.

12 Q Doctor, I'm trying to do that. And also
13 realize that the standard that we use in Florida is
14 medical degree and reasonable degree of medical
15 probability.

16 A That's the standard we use in Alabama, too.

17 Q Absolutely certain it is out -- went out
18 the window, and I'm glad for that. Possibilities
19 exist. And I'm just trying to define these things.
20 Am I correct in stating that in your opinion, within
21 a reasonable degree of medical probability, the
22 child suffered from a viral infection of the central
23 nervous system at Indian River Memorial hospital?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Am I also safe in assuming that within a
3 reasonable degree of medical probability the child
4 did not have that infection in your opinion when she
5 presented herself at Lawnwood?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Is it possible that she had that infection
8 as early as July 22nd when she first appeared at
9 Lawnwood?

10 A It's possible, sure.

11 Q You don't believe that she had it; it's
12 more probable that she did not, but you --

13 A Plus, there's no evidence that she had
14 that; that's correct.

15 Q Okay. When you say there's no evidence,
16 you're basing everything solely upon the emergency
17 room records from Lawnwood Hospital from both July
18 22nd and July 23rd?

19 MR. GAY: I'm going to object to this.
20 It's repetitive. He's already answered it, and
21 you can ask it again. And I suppose you can.

22 A Lawnwood, Indian River, University --

23 BY MR. LUCAS:

1 Q All right.

2 A Wait a minute, now. You're going to let me
3 finish. Okay?

4 Q But I have to go back and ask them.

5 A You can go back and ask whatever you want.

6 All of the records, all of the clinical picture,
7 okay, that's what it's based on.

8 Q I understand what you're saying. But do
9 you understand that there's a discrepancy in between
10 the testimony of some of the witness and what
11 appears on the records from Lawnwood Regional
12 Medical Center? You're relying, are you not, on the
13 accuracy of the records from Lawnwood Regional
14 Medical Center on July 22 and 23?

15 A Sure, I'm relying on that. I'm relying on
16 the subsequent records at Indian River, the
17 subsequent records at the University Hospital; my
18 knowledge, my expertise, my understanding of the
19 pathophysiology of the process and my understanding
20 of medicine. Yes, I'm relying on all that.

21 Q If there is a discrepancy between the
22 testimony of witnesses and the records from Lawnwood
23 Regional Medical Center, you are choosing to accept

1 the view -- the records as presented from Lawnwood
2 Regional Medical Center?

3 A Yeah. Really, this is the only objective
4 data that **you** have are the records. Now, if that's
5 inaccurate, then you need to tell me that that is
6 inaccurate and that these are thrown out and we're
7 not accepting these and give me a new set of facts.

8 Q Okay. Doctor, I'm not -- Doctor, I'm
9 really not trying to ask a trick question. I'm
10 simply trying to get that aside and throw it out so
11 that **I** can then move on to something else.

12 A Well, **I'd** be glad to move on to something
13 else, but, you know, the records are the records. I
14 can't change them and you can't change them. I
15 mean, that's what we have to go on.

16 Q But the question goes back to if there is a
17 conflict between the testimony concerning what calls
18 are made or what information was given, what
19 symptoms the child has and the records you're
20 reviewing. For the purposes of your opinions,
21 you're looking at those records, and you're taking
22 those at face value.

23 A That's what I have to work with, Mr. Lucas.

1 **Q** Okay. That's fair. I'm not -- I don't
2 think I've asked this question. I've asked you
3 about the reasonable probability at Indian River
4 Hospital of having the viral infection; the absence
5 of that at Lawnwood; the possibility that she might
6 have had the infection at Lawnwood.

7 **Now**, can you say one way or the other, with
8 a reasonable degree of medical probability, that
9 Jahida Black had or did not have an infection of the
10 central nervous system when she first appeared at
11 Lawnwood Memorial Hospital?

12 **A** You've already asked me that five times,
13 and it doesn't change. It's possible.

14 **Q** All right, sir. Now, you've answered the
15 possibility. I'm now trying to move to that step of
16 reasonable degree **of** medical probability when she --
17 or can **you** -- that's what I'm saying, maybe one way
18 or the other you can't answer.

19 **A** I think based on having subsequent records
20 and having the ability to look at this whole course,
21 it's probable that she did, upon arrival at Indian
22 River, have a viral meningoencephalitis. The fact
23 that it was evident, no.

1 BY MR. LUCAS:

2 Q All right. That's fair.

3 THE WITNESS: Why don't we take a
4 break. Let's give her a break a minute.

5 MR. LUCAS: Okay.

6 (BRIEF RECESS)

7 BY MR. LUCAS:

8 Q Doctor, I'm going to jump to the other
9 subject matter for a moment. I understand the
10 second -- first of all, are there -- you've
11 expressed the viral infections that you believe this
12 child suffered from which caused her brain injury.
13 You've also indicated that which you do not believe
14 the child has. One of the things we maintain is
15 herpes simplex encephalitis within a reasonable
16 degree of medical probability. One other question
17 has come up on a couple of the different Occasions,
18 and that is the brain -- notwithstanding, regardless
19 of the etiology that led to the seizures, that the
20 seizures **of** and in themselves could have caused the
21 brain damage, and that if not treated appropriately
22 and quickly, and the seizures repetitiveness in
23 itself can cause the brain damage. Do you agree or

1 disagree with that?

2 A I disagree,

3 Q Okay. Why do you disagree with that?

4 A Because in this particular case, focal
5 seizures and seizures that this child had would not
6 cause permanent brain damage.

7 Q Is it safe to say, then, because there are
8 others who've said this, that you cannot separate
9 the seizures from the viral infection and that
10 together they're creating brain damage?

11 A No, that's not safe to say.

12 Q Then you don't believe that the brain
13 seizures had any effect on the brain damage other
14 than -- other than themselves?

15 A No, I don't.

16 Q Okay. There is one period of time at which
17 the child was at Indian River Hospital, and there
18 was an indication that she had a problem of getting
19 sufficient oxygen to the brain. I believe they
20 ordered a tank and a tent to be placed over her,
21 which at least one observer has said probably was
22 caused by the seizure activity. If the seizure
23 activity is such that it causes a failure of enough

1 oxygen to get to the brain, would that in any way
2 alter your opinion as to the effect of seizures and
3 the brain damage she suffered?

4 A It's not the oxygen. It's the lack of
5 blood flow, and I don't think that was sufficient to
6 do that.

7 Q Well, the lack of blood flow -- one of the
8 problems, though, is it doesn't carry oxygen to the
9 brain; is that not correct?

10 A That's one of them, but that's not the main
11 problem.

12 Q Then within a reasonable degree of medical
13 probability, would it be your opinion that the brain
14 seizures of and in and of themselves did not
15 contribute to the child's brain damage?

16 A That's true.

17 Q On life expectancy, how long do you expect
18 this child to live?

19 A Less than two decades.

20 Q That's within twenty years from the time
21 that she was first infected?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Okay. On what do you base that?

1 A Well, I base that on the fact that the
2 child has severe involvement of the nervous system
3 with profound mental retardation, visual impairment,
4 spastic quadriparesis, is not ambulatory, is not
5 bowel or bladder trained, has contractures,
6 kyphoscoliosis, involvement of the oropharyngeal
7 muscles: and the fact that the literature would
8 support this, the fact that my experience and
9 knowledge taking care of children with severe
10 impairment would support that.

11 Q When you are speaking of the literature,
12 are you referring to the Ivan (phonetic) Grossman
13 study?

14 A That's one of them, sure.

15 Q Is there anything else besides that you're
16 referring to?

17 A Oh, I think there's a long series of
18 literature over a number of years that would support
19 that. Plus, I mean, that's just the fact of the
20 matter and the way things are.

21 Q The reason I've asked you that is because
22 the terminology you're using is so similar to the
23 terminology used in the explanation of that study,

1 both in the book and in the article. And it's
2 essentially based on this approach.

3 A Well, what other -- those are just
4 descriptions **of** a severely impaired child. I mean,
5 there's only one way to **do** it.

6 Q I take it, then, that you're relying in
7 part, at least, on this particular survey?

8 A Oh, I think it's good data.

9 Q There are many who have told me that this
10 is -- up to the time that this particular data was
11 produced, that there was not an adequate data base
12 in the United States on this particular subject, and
13 it's been the best study that has been made on that
14 subject.

15 A Well, you have to take the data and look at
16 it separately and individually and the parts of it.
17 Collectively, I would agree with you that that's the
18 single best study. But there are certainly
19 subsequent things that have also been quite good,
20 too.

21 Q What subsequent study?

22 A Well, there are articles and then
23 additional observations in the literature supporting

1 the fact that the time periods are quite accurate.

2 Q Do you know offhand what --

3 A Well, they've had an article in the New
4 England Journal of Medicine. They've had --

5 Q They had that in 1991, I think.

6 A Right. And then there are some -- there
7 are several articles by Bal (phonetic) Bassarini
8 (phonetic).

9 Q Can you spell that?

10 A No. I'm not very good at that.

11 Q Sounds like an Italian name. I'll put down
12 an Italian spelling.

13 A Yes.

14 Q Doctor, I asked you earlier whether you had
15 seen this child. You indicated no. You had given a
16 deposition in another case which took place in
17 Florida -- first of all, I'll ask you, have you ever
18 testified in Florida before?

19 A Yes, I have.

20 Q And you've been qualified as an expert
21 witness in several courts in Florida?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Do you remember how many times you've been

1 in Florida as a witness.

2 A In trial?

3 Q Yes.

4 A Gosh, less than ten.

5 Q That has been primarily for the defense?

6 A Yes.

7 Q If I remember correctly -- I'd have to go
8 back to your CV, but you're also licensed in
9 Florida?

10 A Yes, I am.

11 Q Doctor, in this one particular case, which
12 was Stewart versus Goldschmidt -- and I believe you
13 were asked a number of questions by -- the Searcy
14 firm or for the plaintiff was probably asking you
15 this question. On Page 20 of that deposition, which
16 was taken on July 19th of 1989, you were asked the
17 question (reading): In other cases in which you have
18 testified you have examined the brain-injured child;
19 have **you** not?

20 ANSWER: When I have been asked to give
21 life expectancy, yes.

22 QUESTION: Does the physical.
23 examination of the injured child help you in

1 arriving at your opinion as to causation?

2 ANSWER: Yes, sometimes it's very
3 important.

4 QUESTION: What other factors than
5 that physical examination gives you that
6 (inaudible) review of depositions and charts
7 does not?

8 ANSWER: Well, I think you know the
9 opportunity is that sometimes when the
10 laboratory data and the sequence of events may
11 be inconsistent, that some of their conclusions
12 help you arrive at your conclusion, just
13 particularly when the child has not been
14 examined by a neurologist or a pediatric
15 neurologist. And most have had general
16 practitioners because one is trained to look at
17 the nervous system in a different way.

18 Does that sound familiar to you?

19 A Sure.

20 Q Did you not feel it necessary to examine
21 this child in order to make your determination in
22 terms of life expectancy?

23 A No. I mean, you've had the child examined

1 by Dr. Greer, Dr. Charish. I mean, they're all
2 consistent. I mean, I don't think there are any
3 inconsistencies in the findings.

4 Q Okay. So you're relying essentially on
5 their examinations?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Did you see the report from Dr. Singer?

8 A Yes.

9 Q I can't recall -- there are a lot of
10 definitions in this case -- whether you have read
11 the deposition of Dr. Singer.

12 a I did. But if you're going refer to it,
13 you're going to have to show it to me because I
14 can't tell you that I can remember it.

15 Q I'm not going to refer to the deposition.
16 As you know, his opinion is somewhat different from
17 both Dr. Greer and that of Dr. Charish.

18 A On what?

19 Q The longevity of the child. That's why I
20 asked if you'd seen the report.

21 A Yes.

22 Q And he indicates, notwithstanding the
23 condition of the child, which essentially he's

1 described, as you have, in terms of where the child
2 is today mentally and physically, that the child had
3 up to the fifth **or** sixth decade of life. He's also
4 based that on some of his own observations and
5 experiences.

6 A **Well**, I'd have to say that that's certainly
7 not my experience nor the experience of my
8 colleagues. I'd ask him where those children are
9 because I don't see them.

10 Q Dr. Spigotto (phonetic) and Meranti
11 (phonetic) and Collin, I believe you read their
12 depositions. I don't think they made reports, but
13 all indicated within the fifth decade, based on
14 their experiences, as did Dr. Bailey.

15 A Right. I'd just have to tell that they
16 would have to show you where those children are.
17 They don't exist in Alabama. They don't exist in
18 Arkansas. They don't exist in St. Louis. So I
19 don't know where they are.

20 Q Okay. Doctor, can you give me a little bit
21 of the benefit of the experience you've had in
22 working with children who have been brain damaged --

23 A Sure.

1 Q -- and where that experience has been and
2 the type of facilities where that has been?

3 A I was in charge of all of the chronic care
4 facilities for children in the state of Arkansas for
5 two years and have been involved in chronic care
6 facilities, really, ever since I began practicing in
7 1976, and certainly in the chronic care facilities
a in Alabama and Georgia. So I think I've rather
9 extensive experience in that area.

10 Q I can't recall offhand in which of these
11 depositions, but one of the -- I think one of the
12 depositions indicated that you had two years in a
13 facility that dealt with particularly dangerous
14 patients, people who would either be dangerous to
15 others or dangerous to themselves.

16 A Well, that's unfortunately the definition
17 in the state of Alabama for children that are
18 severely retarded or adults that are severely
19 retarded. That's the definition for admission.

20 Q What do they mean by that? Obviously, it's
21 not --

22 A It means they're either dangerous to
23 themselves or dangerous to others. What does that

1 have to do with this? I mean, I don't --

2 Q Well, I'm trying to find out the specifics.
3 That's why I asked specifically the breakdown of the
4 type of experience you've had, which has been broad,
5 but not necessarily explained to me in anything that
6 I've read.

7 A I was the director of the chronic
8 facilities for children in the entire state of
9 Arkansas. As a pediatric neurologist, I have been
10 in charge of the crippled children's programs, which
11 are severely impaired children in Mobile, and to a
12 certain extent, the southern part of Alabama. I've
13 done that in Arkansas and also in St. Louis at St.
14 Louis Children's Hospital.

15 Q Okay. I notice that in many of the
16 depositions that you were called as an expert in
17 prenatal or prinatal (phonetic) cases. Do you have
18 a particular specialty in that area, or does it just
19 happen to be coincidental that you were called in
20 cases involved --

21 MR. GAY: Excuse me. Let me object to
22 the form of the question.

23 A You know, I mean, I am a pediatric

1 neurologist. That's what pediatric neurologists
2 deal with, so I am an expert in that area.

3 BY MR. LUCAS:

4 Q I understand that. But we're dealing with
5 somebody beyond that age, beyond that point, between
6 seven years and two years. I'm trying to find out
7 what type **of** -- whether you have concentrated just
8 across the board with all children, with children
9 and adults or children or a specific age?

10 A Well, I mean, the predominant number of
11 children are involved under a year **of** age, so you're
12 going to deal with them predominantly. But I am,
13 you know, board certified in both adult and child
14 neurology. So I'm a child neurologist and I deal
15 with children of all ages.

16 Q Several of the cases in which you testified
17 in Florida dealt with prenatal cases or cases in
18 which brain damage occurred at birth, and you gave
19 some very extensive background in that area. And
20 perhaps I just have not seen some other cases, and
21 that's why I was wondering whether you -- a lot **of**
22 people concentrate -- some physicians will
23 concentrate on that one particular period of time,

1 regardless **of** what they may be board certified in.
2 And I'm just wondering how broad. And you've
3 explained to me that you're not limited to that one
4 area, is that correct, that one age limit, prenatal
5 and --

6 A Well, but I don't know what you're talking
7 about. I mean, you know, you're talking about
8 something that I'm not aware of, so I can't comment
9 on it,

10 Q You have testified in Florida?

11 A Yes.

12 Q You have testified in cases involving
13 prenatal injuries, particularly brain damaged
14 children, and also occurring shortly after birth?

15 A Prenatal, natal and postnatal, yes.

16 Q And that is one of the areas in which you
17 have done a great deal of your work and gathered a
18 great deal of your experience?

19 A Sure.

20 Q What I'm simply asking is, and I think you
21 probably have told me that that is not the -- that
22 you don't limit yourself to that area, but your
23 experience has been as varied in other age groups

1 involving pediatrics and children?

2 A Yes.

3 Q That was not apparent from the depositions,
4 and I just wanted to establish that. And I take it,
5 then, that the experience that you've had in
6 Arkansas and the experience you've had in Alabama
7 and St. Louis are across the board in children of
8 all ages?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Is your current practice -- is it a private
11 practice, or are you involved with a state agency?

12 A No. I have a limited private practice now.

13 Q And that practice is devoted to what?

14 A To children.

15 Q Children. Exclusively children?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay. You also do, obviously, forensic
18 work for the courtroom and for trials. How much of
19 that -- how much of your income is derived from
20 that?

21 A Oh, I would say this year, probably ten
22 percent or less.

23 Q When you say you have a limited practice,

1 you mean limited in terms of the age group with
2 which you've dealt, as opposed to limited in the
3 number **of** patients you see?

4 A Both.

5 Q I didn't know what you meant by that.

6 A Both.

7 Q But ninety percent of what you're doing is
8 derived from the medical practice that you're
9 providing in the pediatric neurological treatment of
10 children?

11 A **No.** I didn't say that.

12 Q Okay. Then, if ten percent is devoted to
13 forensic **work** for litigation of various types, what
14 would be, from a medical viewpoint, the sources of
15 your other income?

16 A Well, my investments; my other income and
17 then my position **as** president of the Mobile
18 Infirmary.

19 Q What is the Mobile Infirmary?

20 A It's a seven hundred and four bed tertiary
21 care hospital.

22 Q For pediatric patients or --

23 A No. It's a community hospital.

1 Q And I take it that that takes up most of
2 your professional time?

3 A Yes.

4 Q So when you say the limited practice is
5 that time which you do not have to devote to the
6 administration and responsibilities at the hospital,
7 but the time you do have to devote to patients would
8 be --

9 A That's correct.

10 Q Approximately how much of that time is
11 spent with the pediatric patients?

12 A About five percent of that time.

13 Q So the, say, seventy-five to eighty percent
14 of the time, then, which you work professionally, is
15 that the administrator and director of this
16 facility?

17 A You know, I work there every day.

18 Q I know that but I'm saying in terms of --

19 A The majority of the time is devoted to the
20 Mobile Infirmary.

21 Q And the Mobile Infirmary, is there any
22 particular type of patient that they see or any
23 particular type of problem, or is it just a --

1 A It's the largest nonprofit hospital in the
2 state of Alabama.

3 Q Approximately how many times do you testify
4 a year?

5 A Two or three times a year in court.

6 Q And where do you practice other than
7 Florida and Alabama?

8 A Depending on where I've been asked. It's
9 predominantly in the southeast.

10 Q Are you in Florida more than once a year --

11 A Well, my parents live in Florida so I am,
12 yes.

13 Q -- in terms of the witness in a case?

14 A No. I don't think -- it's been a long time
15 since I've testified in court in Florida.

16 Q You've probably been told, at least for the
17 time being, trial is set for November 10th. I take
18 it that you **will** be available for trial?

19 A Yes.

20 Q That doesn't surprise me. Doctor, a couple
21 of things you've mentioned that you had reviewed,
22 and one of them **was** some statistics that you had
23 received from the state of Florida.

1 A Yes.

2 Q Would you look at those for a moment?

3 A Sure.

4 Q I think I've seen this one before.

5 A I believe you have.

6 Q I would just like -- it is a clean copy.

7 I'd like to attach a copy of this as Exhibit B.

8 Going back to the viral infection that you believe
9 affected this child, assuming that that particular
16 virus was diagnosed immediately, what type of
11 treatment can you give to that?

12 A There is none.

13 Q And if it does affect the central nervous
14 system, then it would ravage that system without
15 hope of any medication to correct it?

16 A Well, there is no medication to treat it,
17 that's correct.

18 Q Okay. That's B. I also asked, I think, in
19 the notice of taking deposition we sent out to
20 review the correspondence that you'd received.

21 A Sure.

22 Q Can I look at that, please?

23 MR. LUCAS: Off the record.

1 (Off-the-record discussion)

2 BY MR. LUCAS:

3 Q Have you received others?

4 A Twenty-two depositions, yes.

5 Q All right. And that's in terms of letters
6 and --

7 A Yeah.

8 Q -- stock exhibits or --

9 A Mr. Gay and Mr. Reardon always put a cover
10 letter in.

11 Q Okay. So --

12 A And --

13 Q -- along with a simple cover letter, this
14 is the correspondence?

15 A That's all I've got.

16 Q Okay. You had, I take it, a conversation
17 with Mr. Gay today, obviously?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Have you spoken with him before on this
20 case?

21 A Yes, I have.

22 Q May I see that other document you have in
23 front of you?

1 A Affidavits, report of Dr. Charish, the
2 subpoena, affidavit of Dr. Massey, an affidavit of
3 Dr. Garlisi.

4 Q Okay.

5 (PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBITS 2 & 3 WERE
6 MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

7 MR. GAY: The last exhibit and the
8 correspondence was marked three.

9 BY MR. LUCAS:

10 Q And I take it that the other things you
11 have before you are the medical records that you
12 reviewed?

13 A Right. And these are statements by Tamara
14 Black. Is that --

15 Q Fedra (phonetic).

16 A -- Fedra Black and Rosa Hunt.

17 Q Okay. Those are statements -- they were
18 subsequent depositions that were taken afterwards.
19 Did you also read the depositions?

20 A Yes, I did.

21 Q And, also, that one, Brenda, whose last
22 name I can't recall?

23 A (Witness nods head affirmatively)

1 Q Doctor, I'm going to go back for one
2 second, and I've got to ask this again. Understand
3 it's because I'm not going to have the opportunity
4 to see you again until trial, and I want to make
5 sure that I've covered everything.

6 But the basis upon which you believe
7 within a reasonable degree of medical probability a
8 particular virus affected this child, not herpes
9 simplex encephalitis, was the time of the year,
10 July, that the child was infected; the age of the
11 child, which was below one year; and the pattern of
12 the injury and the CT scan?

13 A And all the negative laboratory data, the
14 subsequent clinical course, my knowledge and
15 expertise in the pathophysiology of viral
16 infections, yes.

17 Q Is the clinical course of this child's
18 development from the time that she arrives at Indian
19 River Hospital, all the way through University
20 Hospital, is that consistent with an infection from
21 herpes simplex encephalitis in addition to -- I'm
22 saying, also, consistent with other viral
23 infections?

1 A Well, given the different Circumstances and
2 the situation, yes, it could be. It's possible.

3 Q The different circumstances being?

4 A Well, being the fact that it's not in July.
5 It's not a seven-month-old child, It's not the same
6 pattern of injury. It's not all the negative
7 laboratory data. It's not the subsequent clinical
8 course, which is entirely different from the way it
9 is.

10 Q Why would -- you've explained why July is
11 important in terms of viral infection you think the
12 child had. Why is it important in the elimination
13 of herpes simplex, for example?

14 A Well, because it's far more likely, given
15 this set of circumstances, given this pattern of
16 injury, given this month of the year, to be an
17 enterovirus, just on pure numbers.

18 Q That doesn't eliminate the possibility that
19 people get herpes -- children get herpes simplex in
20 summer, July, as well as other times?

21 A I've told you that's possible. But you
22 practice medicine based upon the predominance of
23 facts and the predominance of evidence. And, you

1 know, that's, you know, the conclusions you come to.
2 Anything is possible. And, you know, if you had a
3 brain biopsy or you had a positive culture, then one
4 might **be** able to do, say, otherwise.

5 Q Did you -- if I remember correctly, your
6 views in terms of Eastern equine were what, Doctor?

7 A I said that's possible that, you know --
8 and, again, I just can't tell you one way or the
9 other.

10 Q Okay. Absent a biopsy of the brain, do you
11 think there's any definitive way of having made the
12 determination as to which virus this child was
13 suffering from?

14 A Absolutely definitively, no.

15 Q Do you have an opinion as to the efficacy
16 of taking a biopsy of a child, a biopsy from the
17 brain from a child of this age?

18 A What do you mean, "the efficacy"?

19 Q Some doctors have criticized that process
20 because when you take a biopsy of a child -- of a
21 portion of the cells, to that child it is much
22 greater than taking a biopsy out of an adult brain.
23 And for that reason, they suggested waiting. Others

1 say it's --

2 A Oh, no. I think if it's done in the right
3 hands with the right people for the right
4 indications under the right procedures, it's very
5 accurate.

6 Q Without a danger to the child?

7 A Sure.

8 Q If -- you'd have to be -- in order for that
9 to be a totally effective diagnostic tool, you would
10 have to be taking a biopsy from that portion of the
11 brain which was infected; would you not?

12 A What do **you** mean by that?

13 Q Well, this child had extremely severe brain
14 damage.

15 A At what point?

16 Q Well, when you're first trying to -- first
17 of all, let me ask you, when would you recommend
18 taking the biopsy, a brain biopsy of the child, if
19 you suspected a major viral infection?

20 A When you had an abnormal imaging scan that
21 you can see where the difficulty is.

22 Q In this case, when would you think that
23 would have occurred?

1 A On the 26th?

2 Q On the 26th. If the child did have herpes
3 simplex encephalitis by that time, would not the
4 damage have already have been so severe that it
5 could not be corrected by any therapy, including the
6 use of Acyclovir?

7 A Say that again.

8 Q On the 26th, by that time, if the child
9 did have herpes simplex encephalitis, would not
10 taking a brain biopsy at that point be of little use
11 in correcting the damage to the child, even with the
12 early use of Acyclovir?

13 A Well, so is -- Acyclovir, it's of little
14 use in reducing morbidity.

15 Q And you believe that given, regardless of
16 the time it's given?

17 A Excuse me?

18 Q Regardless of the time at which that drug
19 is given?

20 A **Do I** believe what?

21 Q That it does not have an effect on the
22 morbidity of the child?

23 A Yes. I don't think Acyclovir has altered

1 the morbidity of herpes simplex encephalitis,
2 regardless. But, obviously, it's decreased the
3 mortality.

4 Q So whether it would be given on the first
5 day -- assuming herpes simplex encephalitis -- on
6 the first day or the fifth day, in your opinion, it
7 would not affect the morbidity of the child, but it
8 might affect the --

9 A Unfortunately, that's what the data
10 supports. That's correct.

11 Q Which data is that? Can you firm it up?

12 A Well, I'm talking about the data throughout
13 the literature: Dr. Whitley's data; Dr. Nahmaais's
14 data, et cetera.

15 Q Okay. Can you spell that last name?

16 A N-A-H-M-A-A-I-S.

17 Q The test -- there were tests taken at
18 University Hospital, which indicated that there were
19 antibodies of herpes one and herpes two in the
20 child. Did that have any effect upon you at all in
21 making any determinations?

22 A Well, it's only one antibody study done in
23 a period of time, and if you were just to take that

1 one, you would certainly say it would be unlikely
2 that it would be herpes. But, you know, it really
3 doesn't tell you one way or the other.

4 MR. LUCAS: No more questions.

5 THE WITNESS: I know you have some
6 questions.

7 MR. GAY: No. Just so that we don't
8 run into any problems later on, Dr. Chalhub has
9 testified in the areas that he's been asked to
10 render opinions by us. If, depending on the
11 Appellate Court's ruling on this matter of the
12 corporate liability of Prudential and whatever,
13 depending upon that ruling, I may ask Dr.
14 Chalhub to render some opinions in that area as
15 well, but I haven't yet. In fact, I haven't
16 given him things to **look** at --

17 MR. LUCAS: Go ahead.

18 MR. GAY: -- particularly the
19 doctor's credential file. **So** there's no way he
20 could render an opinion now because I haven't
21 given him whatever he would need to look at in
22 order to render an opinion. But I just want you
23 to know that's out there. And, certainly, if

1 and when that comes to pass, if you want to talk
2 to him again in that specific area -- that is,
3 corporate liability -- I would agree that you're
4 entitled to do so.

5 MR. LUCAS: Let me -- off the record
6 here a moment.

7 (Off-the-record discussion)

8 MR. LUCAS: As I understand it, the
9 issue which **is** now on the Appellate Court has to
10 do with the corporate liability based on the
11 credentialing of Dr. Schapiro-Hunter, M.D.
12 Although there is corporate liability already
13 for the hospital because of the actions of its
14 employees, i.e., the nurses, within the scope of
15 its employment, I take it that if that is
16 permitted by the court, the Appellate Court, and
17 we are able to proceed on the credentialing
18 issue, you would then be asking Dr. --

19 **THE WITNESS:** Chalhub.

20 MR. LUCAS: -- Chalhub opinions as to
21 whether **or** not Lawnwood Regional Medical Center
22 was negligent in its credentialing process of
23 **Dr.** Schapiro-Hunter; is that correct?

1 MR. GAY: Yeah.

2 MR. LUCAS: Okay.

3 MR. GAY: I mean, I'd ask him
4 his opinion. If I liked his opinion, then I'd
5 offer it. As far as his opinion, I probably
6 wouldn't --

7 BY MR. LUCAS:

8 Q That is the area in which -- okay. And Dr.
9 Chalhub, then, you have not at this point been asked
10 to review that or look at that issue; is that
11 correct?

12 A That's correct.

13 MR. LUCAS: Now, I have tried not to
14 ask any questions that dealt with the standard
15 of care, and I don't think I have because I've
16 always tried to tie it into causation, But do
17 we have a stipulation at this point that this
18 physician is not going to be asked to address
19 questions on the standard of care?

20 THE WITNESS: At this point that's
21 correct.

22 MR. GAY: Yes.

23 MR. LUCAS: I mean, I don't think I

1 have asked any questions that were directed
2 toward that.

3 MR. GAY: Well, that's not entirely
4 true. But --

5 MR. LUCAS: But I asked questions,
6 that if I follow through and went into other
7 areas, might have developed into that, but I
8 don't think I asked any specific questions that
9 concern --

10 MR. GAY: It is my intention -- and
11 Dr. Chalhub has worked with this understanding,
12 and my intentions have not changed -- that Dr.
13 Chalhub will be asked to render opinions
14 regarding the causation and the life expectancy
15 **of** the child, and perhaps the other area if the
16 Appellate Court says we go into that area. And
17 I do not intend to offer his testimony in
18 support of standard **of** care defense regarding
19 Lawnwood **or** the nurses or doctors.

20 MR. LUCAS: Okay.

21 BY MR. LUCAS:

22 Q One last question, then, Doctor. I just --
23 I just said in general you would agree with the

1 opinions, not only offered by Doctors Charish and
2 Greer in terms of longevity of the child, but also
3 you would follow along the same basis of the
4 opinions that they offered in terms of longevity?

5 MR. GAY: He hasn't seen Dr.
6 Charish's opinion at all. I don't know if he's
7 seen Dr. Greer's. All he's seen is Charish's
8 report of examination.

9 BY MR. LUCAS:

10 Q You haven't read his deposition?

11 A No.

12 Q I'm sorry.

13 A You know, I've told you what I thought, and
14 that's what I'll stand on.

15 MR. LUCAS: Okay. Thank you.

16

17 (END OF TESTIMONY)

18

19

20

21

22

23

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3

4 STATE OF ALABAMA

5 COUNTY OF MOBILE

6

7 I do hereby certify that the above and
8 foregoing transcript of proceedings in the matter
9 aforementioned was taken down by me in machine
10 shorthand, and the questions and answers thereto
11 were reduced to writing under my personal
12 supervision, and that the foregoing represents a
13 true and correct transcript of the proceedings given
14 by said witness upon said deposition.

15 I further certify that I am neither of
16 counsel nor of kin to the parties to the action, nor
17 am I in anywise interested in the result of said
18 cause.

19

20

21

Carol Carmack

22

Court Reporter

23

4-261> Estate of Ashley Carr
DEPOSITION OF ELIAS CHALUB, M.D.
[Tamara Black]

TAKEN ON October 8, 1992
by PAUL D. MARK LUCAS, ESQ.

Pg / Ln

8/20 Child suffered from viral meningoencephalitis which resulted in **severe** and global brain damage

10/13 Had viral infection at the time the child began having focal seizures and then had a lumbar puncture

14/23 Symptoms related to viral infection of CNS:

- Seizures
- Stiff **neck**
- bulging fontanel-
- positive lumbar puncture
- rash
- increased liver
- increase spleen
- **abnormal** clotting studies
- elevated liver function studies

22/12 Four years of **med** school and one year out would make someone a good observer

34/10-17 Focal seizures that are persistent are evidence of viral **infection**

43/25 No cultures or serology - "enteroviral infection"

Positive cultures -vs- abnormal lab values (CSF....)

60/20 Abnormal lumbar puncture would. **be consistent** with a variety
of infections of the nervous system including Herpes Simplex
Encephalitis

98 ?) Acyclovir has reduced morbidity / mortalitybrain
 or
99/ 3 scan shows when you biopsy it

CHALHUB DEPOSITION (BLACK) 10-8-92

- 8). Viral meningoencephalitis causing severe & global brain damage.
- 72). The only objective data we have are the records.
- 76). Life expectancy - less than 2 decades