

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
OF SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

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2  
3 THERESA L. HARVEY, fka,  
HYDE,

CIVIL DIVISION

4 Plaintiff,

5 vs.

No. CV98 06 2257

6 A.J. ROVNER, M.D.

7 Defendant.

DEPOSITION TRANSCRIPT OF:  
Lawrence Cooperstein, M.D.

8  
9  
10 DEPOSITION DATE:  
January 11, 2000  
Tuesday, 3:30 p.m.

11  
12  
13 PARTY TAKING DEPOSITION:  
Plaintiff

14  
15 COUNSEL OF RECORD  
FOR THIS PARTY:  
16 Lawrence J. Scanlon, Esq.  
17 76 South Main Street  
Suite 1612  
18 P.O. Box 2004  
Akron, OH 44309-2004

19  
20 REPORTED BY:  
21 Claire Gross, RDR  
Notary Public

22  
23  
24  
**ORIGINAL**

1 DEPOSITION OF LAWRENCE COOPERSTEIN, M.D.,  
2 a witness, called by the Plaintiff for examination, in  
3 accordance with the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure,  
4 taken by and before Claire Gross, RMR, a Court Reporter  
5 and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of  
6 Pennsylvania, at Shadyside Hospital, 5230 Centre Avenue,  
7 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday, January 11, 2000,  
8 commencing at 3:30 p.m.

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APPEARANCES:

FOR THE PLAINTIFF:

Lawrence J. Scanlon, Esq.  
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Akron, OH 44309-2004  
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FOR THE DEFENDANT:

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1           LAWRENCE A. COOPERSTEIN, M.D.,  
2           being first duly sworn,  
3           was examined and testified as follows:

4           -----

5           EXAMINATION

6           -----

7 BY MR. SCANLON:

8 Q. This is Larry Scanlon, and we are here in Pittsburgh  
9 to take the deposition of Dr. Cooperstein who has  
10 been named as an expert in the above captioned case.  
11 Could you tell us your full name, please?

12 A. Lawrence Cooperstein.

13 Q. Your present residence address?

14 A. 880 Old Hickory Road, Pittsburgh. Zip is 15243.

15 Q. Your date of birth, sir?

16 A. February 6, 1953.

17 Q. Your current occupation or profession?

18 A. I'm a diagnostic radiologist.

19 Q. What does that mean a diagnostic radiologist?

20 A. A diagnostic radiologist is involved with diagnostic  
21 imaging, all different types of imaging studies from  
22 plain x-rays to CT scans, ultrasound, all kinds of  
23 different things.

24 Q. Prior to this deposition I have been given a copy of

1 your CV, and I've handed you what we'll mark as  
2 Exhibit 1 to this deposition, that copy. Have you  
3 had a chance to look at it to determine whether or  
4 not, in fact, it's a current and accurate CV,  
5 Doctor?

6 A. It is accurate. It is not the most current.

7 - - - -

8 (Document marked for identification  
9 Deposition Exhibit No. 1.)

10 - - - -

11 Q. What addition should be made to the CV?

12 A. The only changes would be, I believe, one paper was  
13 published that would be added to this, a paper  
14 having to do with a particular kind of bone tumor,  
15 and the paper that's numbered 25 here has actually  
16 been published whereas in this one it says accepted  
17 for publication. So I would have the journal and  
18 specifics for that. Other than that there really  
19 have not been any other change that is I'm aware of.

20 Q. So that current CV is accurate other than with those  
21 additions?

22 A. To the best of my knowledge, yes.

23 Q. In connection with the case of Theresa Harvey, have  
24 you authored any opinion letters?

1 A. I believe I have, yes.

2 Q. I have been given an affidavit that we'll mark as  
3 Exhibit 2 to your deposition.

4 -----

5 (Document marked for identification  
6 Deposition Exhibit No. 2.)

7 -----

8 Q. I'm going to ask you to take a look at that. It's  
9 two pages, three pages. The affidavit itself is two  
10 pages. Let me hand that to you.

11 Q. Doctor, is Exhibit 2 a copy of the opinion letter  
12 you've previously discussed?

13 A. Yes, it is.

14 Q. Do you know other than that affidavit if you've  
15 authored any other written document in connection  
16 with the opinions you're prepared to express in this  
17 case?

18 A. I have not.

19 Q. Have you also brought with you your file?

20 A. Yes, I have.

21 Q. -- that you reviewed? Is that file in front of you  
22 in the envelope?

23 A. Yes, it is.

24 Q. May I see that, sir? You've reviewed the deposition

1 of Dr. Rovner conduct the on May 23, '97?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And the deposition of Dr. Slezak, S-L-E-Z-A-K,

4 November 11, 1999?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Dr. Copeland taken September 8, 1999?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You read these?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. What about Dr. Margolis' deposition, the radiologist

11 identified in connection with the plaintiff's

12 position in this case, have you read that?

13 A. I have not.

14 Q. You've also looked at the report of Dr. Rovner of

15 the barium enema dated December 8, '94?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And, in fact, you're prepared to support his

18 conclusion in this case, aren't you, Doctor?

19 A. That is correct.

20 Q. You've also looked at Dr. Klepic's request for

21 barium enema study?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. That was dated November 29, 1994 with the diagnosis

24 of blood and stool; correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. The Aultman Hospital requisition form, it's a  
3 request for radiological consult completed by the  
4 technologist Bernhart, you've also looked at that as  
5 well?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Other than these three pieces of paper regarding the  
8 radiographic examination itself or radiological exam  
9 itself, have you looked at any other medical  
10 records?

11 A. I believe not.

12 MR. OCKERMAN: We you did look at the  
13 Korkor report.

14 THE WITNESS: Yes.

15 Q. Which one is that, the one that was attached to  
16 Dr. Slezak's deposition?

17 MR. OCKERMAN: Yes, that one right there.

18 MR. SCANLON: Well, there are two.

19 Q. Did you also look at this drawing?

20 A. I did look at that drawing. I found it a little  
21 confusing. I looked at it.

22 Q. Yes. What did you find confusing about those two  
23 drawings?

24 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection. That's not what

1 he said, but go ahead.

2 Q. All right?

3 A. No. I meant only that this one was a confusing

4 drawing. That's all.

5 Q. How is that? Why is that?

6 A. Because there are all these different pictures. I

7 wasn't quite sure, trying to read the writing. That

8 was over the top of them. I found it to be a

9 little confusing.

10 Q. Did you look at the surgical records that were

11 attached as exhibits to the Slezak deposition?

12 A. I glanced at them.

13 Q. Pathology exhibits?

14 A. Everything that was attached to those I at least

15 skimmed through. I won't say I read every word of

16 those in detail.

17 Q. You've obviously looked at the air contrast barium

18 enema films; correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Let me return to you your file. You charge a flat

21 fee in depositions of \$1,500; correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. It doesn't matter how long it goes?

24 A. It doesn't matter.



1 Q. Or how short?

2 A. True.

3 Q. So if I was done by 4:00, which I probably won't be,  
4 it would still be \$1,500; right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Am I correct that you have only supported one  
7 plaintiff's case in your career of doing  
8 medical-legal work?

9 A. No. Actually now it's two.

10 Q. When was the second one? Did that happen recently?

11 A. The second one came in the mail right about new  
12 year's.

13 Q. And you have decided to support that case?

14 A. Absolutely.

15 Q. That case involving barium enemas?

16 A. No, it does not.

17 Q. And you've been employed by the firm of Buckingham  
18 Doolittle and Burroughs on approximately five to ten  
19 cases over the years?

20 A. Probably closer to ten than five. It may be ten to  
21 twelve at this point.

22 Q. I take it that was not in support of the plaintiff's  
23 position, was it, Doctor?

24 A. For Buckingham Doolittle and burr rose?

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. That is correct.

3 Q. You were retained by that firm in order to defend  
4 their clients who were accused of malpractice;  
5 right?

6 A. That is correct.

7 Q. Does Exhibit 2 contain the full extent of the  
8 opinions that you're prepared to testify to at trial  
9 in this case?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You're not going to render any opinions on the  
12 surviveability issues of Theresa's cancer?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Are you aware that she's died?

15 A. I learned that today.

16 Q. You've been involved in medical-legal work, Doctor,  
17 for approximately the last fifteen years?

18 A. Just about, yes.

19 Q. And you have given medical opinions in approximately  
20 50 cases; is that true?

21 A. That's an estimate, but it's probably close.

22 Q. When you say medical opinions, does that mean that  
23 you've actually testified at trial in 50 cases?

24 A. Oh, no. I've probably testified in trial five times

1 or less.

2 Q. You're going to be testifying tomorrow morning in

3 Akron, Ohio, are you not?

4 A. Yes, I am.

5 Q. That case involves a CT scan of the lung; correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Have you testified in Canton, Ohio, at any time?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Cleveland, Ohio?

10 A. No, never in Cleveland can you remember any case

11 where you've testified in the state of Ohio before

12 tomorrow.

13 A. I can remember two times that I've testified in

14 Ohio. I testified in Akron, I believe, in November.

15 Q. Of?

16 A. Of '99.

17 Q. Was that a trial?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. It wasn't in a deposition, was it?

20 A. Correct. It was a trial.

21 Q. Which courtroom was that in; do you remember?

22 A. I don't remember the judge's name.

23 Q. On whose behalf were you testifying; do you know?

24 A. I was testifying on behalf of the hospital. I

1 believe the judge was a woman. Does that help?

2 Q. Judge Unruh, Judge Bond, Judge Spicer, Judge

3 Cosgrove?

4 A. Judge Cosgrove.

5 Q. What firm had retained your services?

6 A. Retzel & Andress.

7 Q. How much work have you done for Retzel & Andress

8 over the years?

9 A. The work I've done for Retzel & Andress has only

10 been in the last couple of years, and I'd say maybe

11 five cases.

12 Q. How many times have you been retained on behalf of

13 Akron Radiology; do you know?

14 A. That I don't know.

15 Q. What about Canton Radiology?

16 A. I don't know any numbers.

17 Q. Do you know Dr. Rovner independent of this lawsuit?

18 A. I do not.

19 Q. Have you ever spoken to him regarding his opinion in

20 this case?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Doctor, Exhibit 3, that report of Dr. Rovner, it

23 does report a single cecal diverticulum. Do you see

24 that?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. In your opinion, if you have one, was that the cause  
3 of Theresa's bloody stools?

4 A. It could have been. I suspect it probably wasn't.

5 Q. Why do you say that?

6 A. Cecal diverticulum bleed, but the chance of having  
7 significant bleeding from the single diverticulum, I  
8 think, is small.

9 Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether or not there  
10 was any cancer present in Theresa Hyde on December  
11 8, 1994?

12 A. I'm not sure I totally understand the question.

13 Q. Well, do you have an opinion as to whether or not  
14 there was any cancer present in Theresa Hyde on  
15 December 8, 1994?

16 A. Yes, I have an opinion.

17 Q. What's that opinion?

18 A. I suspect there probably was.

19 Q. Do you have an opinion as to where that cancer was  
20 located?

21 A. I suspect it was in her colon.

22 Q. Doctor, is there any radiographic evidence that you  
23 have been shown in this case that supports your  
24 conclusion that you swore to under oath that this

1 mass was found on July 10, 1995, at a rectosigmoid  
2 juncture in her abdomen?

3 A. Again, I'm not certain I followed your question.

4 Q. Doctor, is there any radiographic evidence that you  
5 have seen in this case that supports your conclusion  
6 that the cancerous mass that was found on July 10,  
7 1995 in Theresa Hyde was found at the rectosigmoid  
8 junction?

9 A. Radiographic evidence, no.

10 Q. Has anyone shown you the CT scan of September of  
11 1995?

12 A. No. I don't believe I've seen that.

13 Q. Has anyone shown you the MRI of July of 1995?

14 A. No.

15 Q. If, in fact, this cancer that was discovered was not  
16 found at the rectosigmoid junction, does that change  
17 anything in your opinion?

18 A. It doesn't change my opinion on the interpretation  
19 of the barium enema, no.

20 Q. Why is that?

21 A. Because I believe that it was interpreted  
22 accurately, so it doesn't really change my opinion.

23 Q. Your expertise is in bone and joint radiology?

24 A. That's correct.

1 Q. Have you done any writing in the field of diagnostic  
2 procedures such as barium enemas?

3 A. I've not written anything on barium enemas, no.

4 Q. Your daily practice includes reading plain x-rays or  
5 radiographs; right?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Interpreting CT scans and MRIs?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Do you perform barium enemas?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. When was the last one?

12 A. Yesterday.

13 Q. How many do you perform on an average weekly basis?

14 A. On an average weekly basis, probably five or six.

15 Q. Has that been true for the last five years?

16 A. Roughly so, sure. It may have gone up some weeks,  
17 down other weeks, but in that ballpark.

18 Q. I noticed that you hadn't had any daily contact with  
19 residents here at the hospital for the last eight  
20 years or so. Why is that?

21 A. This hospital years ago had an affiliation with the  
22 University of Pittsburgh, and residents did rotate  
23 through this department. That affiliation ended  
24 eight or nine years ago, and residents, radiology

1 residents, no longer rotated through this hospital  
2 in the last year or so merged into the UPMC or  
3 University of Pittsburgh Medical Center system, so  
4 the expectation is within the next six months to a  
5 year we probably will have residents rotating  
6 through this department again.

7 Q. Do you agree that the standard of care for a  
8 diagnostic radiologist requires an accurate reading  
9 and comprehensive reading of the barium enema study  
10 such as what was done in this case?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And your opinion, the report of Dr. Rovner, in fact,  
13 met the standard of care; correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. I assume you were given the December 8 of '94 barium  
16 enema to look at; correct?

17 A. Yes, I looked at it.

18 Q. What is the purpose of a barium enema study?

19 A. To diagnose problems in the colon.

20 Q. What kind of problems?

21 A. I'd say most commonly barium enema would be used to  
22 look for polyps or cancer of the colon.

23 Occasionally we are asked to do the barium enema for  
24 other things, but those would be the most common.



1 Q. How much time do you devote to the active clinical  
2 practice of medicine here at Shadyside?

3 A. 100 percent.

4 Q. How much time do you spend involved in medical-legal  
5 cases?

6 A. Very little.

7 Q. Do you have a practice outside of the hospital?

8 A. No.

9 Q. What is the purpose of actually using barium?

10 A. Barium is a contrast agent that actually stops  
11 x-rays, therefore, provides a way of seeing  
12 structures that you can't otherwise see with regular  
13 x-rays.

14 Q. Is there anything in these films that you've looked  
15 at from the barium enemas, the barium enema study  
16 rather, of December 8, '94, that would cause you to  
17 dictate a different report than what Dr. Rovner did  
18 in Exhibit 3?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Do you use spot films when you do barium enema  
21 studies?

22 A. Sometimes yes, sometimes no.

23 Q. Tell me on what occasion do you use a spot film.

24 A. If I do a single contrast barium enema, that is not

1 an air contrast but just with regular barium, I  
2 would routinely take spot films.

3 Q. Why is that?

4 A. Single contrast enema is just -- is filling the  
5 colon up with enema in order to see the contours as  
6 much of the colon as one can putting the patient  
7 into different obliquities under the fluoroscopy  
8 and applying compression at that particular time is  
9 important in seeing much of the colon as possible.

10 A little different story with the air  
11 contrast studies in that a compression is not  
12 routinely a part of the study. Fluoroscopic study  
13 of the colon is less important because of the  
14 ability to see through loops of colon that are air  
15 filled, so on a lot of air contrast enemas I would  
16 not take spot films.

17 In fact, during my training when I was a  
18 resident being taught to do air contrast studies, we  
19 were told not to take spot films.

20 Q. When you said fluoroscopic study of the colon is  
21 less important because of the ability to see through  
22 loops of colon that are air filled so on a lot of  
23 air contrast enemas I would not take spot films, do  
24 you know if that's what Dr. Rovner did in this case?

1 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection.

2 A. I've only see seen the films that are available, and  
3 those films do not include any spot films. I've  
4 seen no spot films on this particular case.

5 Q. With respect to the fluoroscopic exam itself, was  
6 there anything in his deposition that indicated to  
7 you that he considered the fluoroscopic exam to be  
8 an important part of his examination of this  
9 patient?

10 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection. Deposition say  
11 what is it says but go ahead adoctor?

12 Q. Go ahead.

13 A. I don't recall.

14 Q. What did you mean by that fluoroscopic examination  
15 is not as important as looking at the films  
16 themselves?

17 A. What I meant was in doing a single contrast barium  
18 enema I believe fluoroscopic study is somewhat  
19 important in that applying compression, looking at  
20 the colon is an integral part of that examination.  
21 When one moves to a double contrast or air contrast  
22 study, compression is really not part of the  
23 examination, and therefore the fluoroscopic study of  
24 the colon is really not an important part of the

1 study. In fact, fluoroscopic, the use of  
2 fluoroscopy is really much more there to monitor the  
3 flow of the barium and the air into the colon than  
4 it is to actually study the colon itself.

5 Q. Can we use your shadow box, Doctor?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Doctor, you've put on the shadow box for us eight  
8 large radiographic films and one small radiographic  
9 film; correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Do these appear to be the films that you looked at  
12 in connection with Theresa Hyde Harvey barium enema  
13 study of December 8, 1994?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did you look at any other films at the time that  
16 these were given to you for your opinion?

17 A. No.

18 Q. So you just looked at these by themselves?

19 A. Do you mean in this particular case?

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. Because I believe that when I first saw these films,  
22 if I remember correctly, and it was sometime ago, I  
23 believe Mr. Ockerman brought several cases that I  
24 wanted me to look at, and this was one of them.

- 1 Q. Were they barium enema studies?
- 2 A. No, they were not.
- 3 Q. -- cases? You might have looked at other films,
- 4 but, for example, you weren't given five separate
- 5 barium enema studies just to take a look at them all
- 6 and come to a conclusion in this case, did you?
- 7 A. No. That's correct.
- 8 Q. Now, I want to draw your attention to 1-F that we've
- 9 marked. In the area of the sigmoid colon do you see
- 10 any shadow that is inconsistent with barium filling
- 11 and expanding the area of that structure?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. You see no shadow?
- 14 A. Not as you've described, no.
- 15 Q. What about in 1-A? Do you see any shadow in the
- 16 area of the distal colon, the distal sigmoid colon?
- 17 This is marked on the other side. This is 1-A. ?
- 18 I will point to it. This area here, Doctor, I'm
- 19 calling that a shadow. Is that a shadow?
- 20 A. That's air.
- 21 Q. But it's black on this film.
- 22 A. Correct. The air is black on all of these films.
- 23 Q. The purpose of using a contrast is to coat the
- 24 internal section of the structure; right?

1 A. Sure. What you're trying to do on an air contrast  
2 manage is use the barium to coat the surfaces and  
3 the air to distend the lumen.

4 Q. In Exhibit 1-F, do you have an opinion to a  
5 reasonable degree of medical probability as to why  
6 the area of the distal sigmoid colon that I've  
7 pointed out is shadowed and not illuminated by  
8 barium?

9 A. Well, if I take to mean or to understand what you  
10 mean by shadow as to mean filled with air rather  
11 than filled with barium? It's because of gravity.  
12 Areas -- that film -- that particular film, I  
13 believe, was taken with the patient prone. Barium  
14 fall noose the dependent parts of the colon by  
15 gravity. Air rises to the portions that are  
16 nondependent, and that's why that segment that  
17 you've pointed to is air filled and the barium has  
18 fallen into areas that are dependent.

19 Q. What's your explanation for that same area appearing  
20 on Exhibit 1-A?

21 A. The same, same explanation. That's an angled view  
22 but also taken with the patient prone.

23 Q. Can you show me a picture that puts the patient on  
24 her stomach where that area of shadow is illuminated

- 1 by barium illumination?
- 2 A. Well, prone is on the stomach.
- 3 Q. I'm sorry. On her back.
- 4 A. I would take exception with the word illumination.
- 5 Q. What's proper, Doctor? What word would you use?
- 6 A. I think what -- well, illumination has no meaning to
- 7 me in terms of looking at the images.
- 8 Q. Well, what --
- 9 A. It depends what you're asking. I'm not even certain
- 10 what you're asking.
- 11 Q. Why is it white is my question?
- 12 A. It's white because the barium is white on the
- 13 x-rays.
- 14 Q. Ended a the black is the x-ray; right?
- 15 A. Correct. And the barium falls into areas that are
- 16 dependent based on gravity. That's why so many
- 17 pictures are taken to put the patient in different
- 18 positions and to use gravity really.
- 19 Q. Well, show me the picture then that where she was on
- 20 her belly and that structure is filled by the
- 21 gravity's effect on the barium, please?
- 22 A. Once again prone is on her belly. You just asked me
- 23 again which films she was on her belly. Those are
- 24 the prone films.

- 1 Q. 1-A and 1-F are prone films where she's on her  
2 belly; correct?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 Q. Show me the supine films then.
- 5 A. This film here, I believe.
- 6 Q. Can you identify that?
- 7 A. That is 1-B-T looks as though it was taken with her  
8 supine.
- 9 Q. And the area of shadow is, in your opinion, gone;  
10 correct?
- 11 A. Well, the air and the barium have moved around.  
12 Again, based on gravity. For instance, this segment  
13 here of the transverse colon is filled with barium,  
14 white on this film. Here with the patient supine  
15 filled with air.
- 16 Q. You just pointed to 1-F and 1-B?
- 17 A. Correct. The area that you asked about here and the  
18 sigmoid colon on 1-F is filled with air, and here on  
19 this film here, on 1-B it's filled with barium.  
20 This area of the sigmoid colon here on 1-F is filled  
21 with barium. Here the same area of the sigmoid  
22 colon is filled with air.
- 23 Q. Is there any other film, in your opinion, that  
24 adequately shows the area of the distal colon being



1 completely filled by barium in terms of an image,  
2 Doctor?

3 A. The intent of the study is not to fill areas with  
4 barium. The intent of the study is to get enough  
5 views to see all parts of the colon in air contrast.

6 If one were interested in just filling the  
7 colon with barium, one could do a single contrast  
8 enema which again is a good study. There are other  
9 films here that include that area. On some of them  
10 the areas are filled with barium and others it's  
11 coated with barium and more distended with air.

12 Q. I just want to make sure your opinion is clear,  
13 Doctor. To a reasonable degree of medical  
14 probability, the area of shadow on the distal  
15 sigmoid colon with the patient in the prone position  
16 is caused by gravity; is that correct?

17 A. Well, again, I think the terminology you're using is  
18 probably incorrect. When you say the area of  
19 shadow, if you mean that segment of the colon, that  
20 segment of the colon on that particular view is  
21 coated with barium and distended with air.

22 Q. Well, Exhibit 1-F shows an area of the distal  
23 sigmoid colon where it is not coated with barium,  
24 otherwise it wouldn't be black, it would be white;

1 isn't that true?

2 A. Barium is white and all segments of the sigmoid are  
3 coated. I don't see any segment of colon that isn't  
4 coated.

5 Q. What's the area I pointed out, Doctor? Is that  
6 coated with barium?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. On 1-F?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Point it out to me.

11 A. I believe you were talking about this segment of  
12 sigmoid here.

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. It's coated. That's the coating on the wall.

15 Q. You're pointing to the external wall itself has a  
16 white line; is that right?

17 A. Yes. Just like all these other segments.

18 Q. What's your explanation for the black area between  
19 the two white lines, Doctor?

20 A. The black in here?

21 Q. Yes, sir.

22 A. That's air.

23 Q. That's fair air?

24 A. Yes.

1 Q. Caused by gravity?

2 A. Sure. Air rises, barium sinks.

3 Q. That's an opinion you hold to a reasonable degree of  
4 medical probability?

5 A. Yes, absolutely.

6 Q. So you would disagree with Dr. Rovner that that's  
7 caused by a contraction?

8 A. Oh, no, I'm not disagreeing with that necessarily at  
9 all.

10 Q. Well, gravity and a contraction, Doctor, do those  
11 hold two different meanings to you, sir?

12 A. You asked a question about what's causing the  
13 density on that image. You asked about black and  
14 white. What I'm describing to you is black, what is  
15 black, which is a air and what is white, which is  
16 barium.

17 Contraction has nothing to do with what's  
18 black and what's white. Contraction has to do with  
19 the shape of what we are talking about. You simply  
20 asked about coating and this is coated. You asked  
21 about black and white. I've explained to you why  
22 it's black and white. Please may I finish? But  
23 bringing up contraction is a totally different  
24 thing. Now you're talking contour.

1 Q. Is the area contracted to your opinion to a medical  
2 degree of probability?

3 A. Yes, I think it's a little bit contracted.

4 Q. You do?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Could it be contrasted -- contracted by cancer?

7 A. Conceivably, but I don't think in this particular  
8 case.

9 Q. Why is that?

10 A. Because I would say that there are other images on  
11 this study of that area where that segment looks  
12 normal.

13 Q. Show us that, will you, please. Reference the  
14 exhibits?

15 A. I think on 1-E that segment looks normal. I think  
16 on 1-D that segment looks normal. I think 1-C it  
17 show that is segment to be normal. I think 1-B also  
18 shows that, and I think 1-H also shows that.

19 Q. Isn't part of your opinion in this case based on  
20 speculation, though, Doctor?

21 A. Speculation regarding --

22 Q. Where the cancer was found. Aren't you assume the  
23 cancer was not found in the exact area where that  
24 shadow is on 1-F, don't you, sir?

1 A. Oh, no. I'm not speculating. I'm telling you there  
2 is explanations as to why the images look as they  
3 look, and I don't think you can diagnose cancer from  
4 those images.

5 Q. Is that the purpose then of the barium enema for the  
6 radiologist to make a diagnosis of cancer?

7 A. That is sometimes the outcome of the barium enema.  
8 I think the diagnosis of cancer has to be made from  
9 tissue. I think that's a pathologic diagnosis, but  
10 there is certainly images that one can see that is  
11 strongly suspicious of cancer. If the actual  
12 diagnosis, I believe, most physicians would agree  
13 requires tissue.

14 Q. So in Exhibit 1-F and Exhibit 1-A you see no area of  
15 abnormality in the distal sigmoid colon; is that  
16 correct, Doctor?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. You would not comment on the change in shape of that  
19 particular area; correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Nor would you comment on the presence of air in that  
22 area of the distal colon; correct?

23 A. I wouldn't comment on it. That's normal.

24 Q. Even though it's possible, isn't it, Doctor, that

1 both of those items in those images, 1-A and 1-F,  
2 could be caused by cancer; right?

3 A. No, I disagree with that.

4 Q. You don't believe that either of those could be  
5 caused by the presence of cancer?

6 A. The air is not cancer. The black is air. That's  
7 not cancer. I don't understand where you're going  
8 here.

9 Q. What about the shape, the shape, could that be  
10 cancer?

11 A. Conceivably, but again I think not.

12 Q. All right. But, in fact, it is where the cancer was  
13 found in this case?

14 A. My understanding is cancer was eventually diagnosed  
15 in the sigmoid colon, yes.

16 Q. So when you sign an affidavit that said the area of  
17 cancer was found in the rectosigmoid junction, that  
18 was wrong, wasn't it?

19 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection.

20 A. Can I see the affidavit again? I'm not sure how I  
21 understand that's wrong.

22 Q. Well, you just testified under oath, sir, that my  
23 understanding is the cancer was eventually diagnosed  
24 in the sigmoid colon, yes?

1 A. You're quibbling over words here that don't have  
2 exact meaning. Rectosigmoid junction certainly  
3 includes part of the sigmoid colon. We are not  
4 talking about anatomically different areas.

5 Q. Well, when you were given this case to look at, were  
6 you given the surgical records, sir, regarding the  
7 cancer?

8 A. When I was given the case to look at originally, no.

9 Q. Before you signed that affidavit did you look at the  
10 surgical records regarding where the cancer was  
11 found?

12 A. That I don't recall with certainty.

13 Q. What you recall seeing is the drawings of Dr. Cocar;  
14 correct?

15 A. I have seen those, yes.

16 Q. It's three pages we've marked as Exhibit 4. Let me  
17 shows those again.

18 - - - -

19 (Document marked for identification

20 Deposition Exhibit No. 4.)

21 - - - -

22 A. I have seen these. I'm not sure exactly when I  
23 first saw them.

24 Q. Page 429 of that exhibit contains Bates stamp 429,

1 lower right hand corner.

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. It shows a drawing following the flexible

4 sigmoidoscopy. Do you see that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You did see that. We had shown you that from your

7 package of documents. Is that what you were relying

8 on in concluding that this mass was found in the

9 rectosigmoid junction?

10 A. That is possible. I'm not certain in retrospect

11 exactly which pieces of paper I reviewed.

12 Q. Well, you also at page 430, second part of that

13 document, and we discussed earlier about the

14 location of that mass. Earlier I believe you said

15 that that drawing was confusing to you.

16 A. Well, just that it's not a great drawing. That's

17 all. It's a confusing piece of paper. There is

18 lots of lines and pictures. That's all I meant by

19 that.

20 Q. It, in fact, shows the cancer to be on the other

21 side of the same bend using his reference points?

22 A. That would seem to be the case.

23 Q. Let me ask you this, Doctor, assuming that the

24 cancer was found in the distal rectosigmoid colon



1 Theresa, do you have an opinion, to a reasonable  
2 degree of medical probability, one way or another,  
3 that that area that we've been discussing on Exhibit  
4 1-F is the area where the cancer was found in this  
5 patient?

6 A. Based on the pathological records, yes. That's the  
7 area that the cancer was found.

8 Q. And if when you looked at this on behalf of  
9 Dr. Rovner and his lawyer, you didn't say to him,  
10 gee, that looks like cancer?

11 A. No, I did not.

12 Q. And if you had read this, the same report would have  
13 been issued; right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Have you ever testified in any domestic or criminal  
16 matters, Doctor?

17 A. I testified in a criminal matter before a grand jury  
18 in Buffalo, New York.

19 Q. What was that for?

20 A. That was in regards to a gentleman who through some  
21 investment schemes scanned scammed me out of some  
22 money.

23 Q. Have you ever testified in any domestic matter?

24 A. I have not? Any juvenile matter.

1 A. Never.

2 Q. Ever been party to a lawsuit?

3 A. Party to a lawsuit?

4 Q. Yes, sir.

5 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection.

6 Q. Filed suit or been sued?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. On how many different occasions?

9 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection.

10 A. There was a suit after I left my previous radiology

11 group. There was a suit filed over some deferred

12 compensation that I became part of along with nine

13 or ten other physicians. That was eventually

14 dropped.

15 I also filed a civil suit against the same

16 gentleman about whom I testified to a grand jury.

17 That suit I eventually dropped as well: That's it.

18 I have no other suits.

19 Q. Never been sued yourself?

20 A. No.

21 Q. No domestic relations cases?

22 A. No.

23 Q. No criminal cases?

24 A. None.

1 Q. Been cited into court for any reason?

2 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection.

3 A. No criminal cases, no.

4 Q. Traffic?

5 MR. OCKERMAN: Traffic tickets, parking

6 tickets.

7 A. I've had traffic particular thes, parking tickets a

8 couple of speeding tickets.

9 Q. I'm handing you Exhibit 5, Doctor.

10 - - - -

11 (Document marked for identification

12 Deposition Exhibit No. 5.)

13 - - - -

14 Q. It is the CT scan of a pelvis, the abdomen, pelvis,

15 done September 14, 1995. Have you ever seen that

16 report, sir?

17 A. I don't think I've ever seen this report.

18 Q. Have you ever looked at that film?

19 A. Oh, no. I've never seen those films.

20 Q. Do you think a radiologist can look at a CT and have

21 an impression of an annular carcinoma of the distal

22 sigmoid colon involving a five centimeter long

23 segment?

24 A. I'm sorry. The question again?

1 Q. Can you as a radiologist look at a CT scan and have  
2 an impression of similar to what Dr. Sayoc, annular  
3 carcinoma of the distal sigmoid colon involving the  
4 five centimeter long segment?

5 A. You mean hypothetically could I diagnose that?

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. Sure.

8 Q. Why is that? What is it about the CT scan that  
9 allows you to make that kind of impression of  
10 carcinoma where you haven't taken a tissue sample  
11 yet to determine what the cancer is?

12 A. Oh, I misunderstood your question. I don't think  
13 one can make a definitive diagnosis of cancer just  
14 from the images.

15 Q. Right.

16 A. I suspect -- well, reading through his report under  
17 the top where it says clinical study it says  
18 follow-up rectal cancer.

19 Q. Post flexible sigmoidoscopy; right?

20 A. It doesn't say that, but if this was done, and there  
21 was already a diagnosis of cancer, then he knows  
22 what he's looking at is cancer.

23 Q. So I take it then, to a reasonable degree of  
24 medical probability, Doctor, you do not have an

1 opinion that the area that we've been discussing on  
2 Exhibit 1-F is, in fact, not cancerous; correct?

3 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection.

4 A. Can you repeat that? That was a double negative?

5 Q. Sure. I want to make sure that when we come to  
6 trial in this case you're not prepared to testify to  
7 a reasonable degree of probability that the area  
8 that we've discussed on Exhibits 1-F and 1-A, that  
9 is, what I call an area of shadow or blackness,  
10 which you have called air, is not, in fact,  
11 indicative of cancer.

12 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection.

13 A. I'm going to testify that I believe the images are  
14 normal, that no mass can be diagnosed on those  
15 images, and that what you're referring to as the  
16 area of shadow, the blackness, is air.

17 Q. And further, the shape of that area that we are  
18 discussing on 1-A and 1-F, in your opinion, it is,  
19 in fact, a change in the normal structure of the  
20 distal sigmoid colon, is it not, sir?

21 A. On those two images, the shape is different in that  
22 area, yes.

23 Q. And is it your opinion, to a reasonable degree of  
24 medical probability that that wasn't caused by

1 cancer?

2 A. It is my opinion that taking the study as a whole,  
3 that the study is normal and that no mass can be  
4 diagnosed.

5 Q. I know. I've heard that before, but I'm here to ask  
6 you this question. Is it your opinion tortious a  
7 reasonable degree of medical probability, that the  
8 shape of that segment of the distal sigmoid colon  
9 was, in fact, not caused by cancer on December 8,  
10 1994?

11 A. I would have interpreted that as being probably a  
12 transient phenomenon, probably caused by contraction  
13 as I can't confirm it on the other images.

14 Q. So you don't have an opinion that it wasn't, in  
15 fact, cancerous of that area of the distal sigmoid  
16 colon; correct?

17 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection. He said how he  
18 would interpret it.

19 A. That's how I would have interpreted the study. I  
20 think what I'm trying to give you is prospectively  
21 how this study should be interpreted.

22 Q. Fine. Retrospectively then, Doctor, isn't it a fact  
23 that the area that we are discussing on 1-F is, in  
24 fact, caused by the presence of cancer in this young

1 woman?

2 A. I think retrospectively there is no question that  
3 cancer is diagnosed in that area. Whether or not  
4 the films demonstrate that, we disagree. I don't  
5 think they do.

6 Q. Handing you Exhibit 6, the operative note of  
7 December 29, '95 from Dr. Meyerhoefer, would you  
8 take a look at that and tell me if you've ever seen  
9 it?

10 -----

11 (Whereupon, there was a recess in the  
12 proceedings.)

13 -----

14 Q. Do you think you've seen that surgical report prior  
15 to today, Doctor?

16 A. I think that it's attached to one of those  
17 depositions.

18 Q. Before you came to your opinion in this case,  
19 though, you did not look at any of the surgical or  
20 pathology materials; correct?

21 A. To the best of my knowledge, that is correct.

22 Q. And other than the barium enema study, you saw no  
23 other films?

24 A. Correct.

1 Q. And when did you come to a conclusion that there was  
2 cancer in this patient other than at the  
3 rectosigmoid junction because you see, sir, I think  
4 your opinions are different than what you put in the  
5 affidavit, and I'm trying to have you explain it to  
6 me. You sign an affidavit that you felt that the --  
7 since the cancer was found at the rectosigmoid  
8 junction, there is no abnormality in the area on  
9 that film, but today you're admitting to us that  
10 there is something that you wouldn't have commented  
11 on, but it is -- there is something visible on that  
12 film, and that's exactly where the cancer was.

13 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection. Go ahead.

14 A. I think what I've said is that I would have  
15 interpreted it still would interpret it the study as  
16 normal.

17 Q. Let me read it to you because you said In  
18 retrospect, knowing that a mass was found on July  
19 10, 1995, at the rectosigmoid junction, I do not see  
20 anything that is suspicious for a mass in this area  
21 on the December 8, 1994 films.

22 A. That's true.

23 Q. And you swore under oath that the mass was found at  
24 that location?



1 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection.

2 Q. Didn't you? You signed this under oath?

3 MR. OCKERMAN: I think you're mincing  
4 words here, Mr. Scanlon, so let's be clear. July  
5 10, 1995, the conclusion of Dr. Korkor, large  
6 infiltrating fungating mass at the level of the  
7 rectosigmoid junction.

8 MR. SCANLON: His affidavit says --

9 MR. OCKERMAN: That says July 10, 1995.

10 MR. SCANLON: It says in retrospect  
11 knowing that a mass was found on July 10, 1995.

12 MR. OCKERMAN: In the rectosigmoid.

13 Q. In the rectosigmoid junction I do not see anything  
14 that is suspicious for a mass in this area on the  
15 December 8, 1994 films.

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. When you signed that affidavit, though, you hadn't  
18 even looked at the surgical records to find out  
19 where the surgery was conducted; correct?

20 A. I believe that's true. I don't think I saw the  
21 surgical records until later.

22 Q. The area that we've been discussing on 1-F, you  
23 described it as being a partial contraction, that  
24 is, to explain the narrowing of the outline of the

1 sigmoid colon that we see; correct?

2 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection.

3 A. I do believe I said it was most likely a  
4 contraction.

5 Q. Did you say partial contraction?

6 MR. OCKERMAN: I think he said little.

7 A. I don't remember using the word partial.

8 Q. All right. What about little? Do you remember  
9 saying that?

10 A. Honestly I don't remember that either.

11 Q. You don't? What caused that contraction? Do you  
12 have an opinion as to a reasonable degree of medical  
13 probability?

14 A. What caused it?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. I don't know that anybody knows what causes portions  
17 of the colon to contract. You see it will a the  
18 time on barium enema studies, so, no, I have no  
19 opinion as to what caused that.

20 Q. Were you, once again, show me in the other films  
21 this area of the distal sigmoid colon becomes filled  
22 with barium when the patient is in different  
23 positions. Speak slowly, please?

24 A. Here with the patient supine that segment is here.

- 1 Q. Exhibit B?
- 2 A. 1-B. It is white and hence filled with barium. I  
3 believe it is partially filled with barium here in  
4 this segment here on 1-H.
- 5 Q. You see no areas of overlapping colon in 1-B?
- 6 A. Oh, yes. There is overlap in on all the films of  
7 portions of the colon. That's the nature of the  
8 colon. That there is overlap.
- 9 Q. 1-H?
- 10 A. In 1-H-I think that segment that we see in 1-F a  
11 sweeping across this way is that same segment that I  
12 see sweeping across here. Here it's filled with  
13 barium. Here it is filled with air.
- 14 Q. 1-H is the post evacuation film, is it not?
- 15 A. Yes, it is.
- 16 Q. Would you expect a significant change in the shape  
17 of the colon and that's why you do air contrast,  
18 isn't it, Doctor, to expand the shape of the colon  
19 to look for defects?
- 20 A. The reason one does air contrast is to coat the  
21 inner wall with barium, fill the lumen with air  
22 which allows one to see inside the lumen, if you  
23 will. It's particularly useful when one has  
24 overlapping structures as in the colon.

1 Q. I'm surprised you haven't asked to see Dr. Margolis'  
2 deposition. Do you know who he is?

3 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection. Dr. Margolis'  
4 deposition was not delivered to my office until  
5 Friday of last week, so --

6 MR. SCANLON: Well, I'm here to find this  
7 witness' opinions out. I'm going to move to limit  
8 him to what he has reviewed and what he has  
9 testified to today for \$1,500 I think we are  
10 entitled to have all of your opinions.

11 MR. OCKERMAN: Larry, what do you want me  
12 to do when the deposition isn't here in time to get  
13 to to him?

14 MR. SCANLON: That's not true because I  
15 had mine within a week.

16 MR. OCKERMAN: Well, I didn't have mine  
17 until last week.

18 MR. SCANLON: Whatever.

19 MR. SCANLON:

20 Q. Do you know Dr. Margolis?

21 A. If he's the doctor Margolis I think it is in San  
22 Francisco?

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. Then I know of him, yes.

1 Q. He helped write the American College of Radiology

2 Standards in this area. Do you know that?

3 A. I was not aware of that.

4 Q. You're a member of the American College of

5 Radiology, are you not, sir?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Board certified?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Is in a a test that you have to undergo?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did you pass it on the first time?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Now, this gravity that you explain is the reason why

14 the lumen isn't filled with barium so that it repels

15 the x-rays and appears as a white image, why is it

16 that other parts of the colon in the same position

17 don't show that similar kind of combination of

18 blackness caused by air and a contraction?

19 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection.

20 A. I don't know about the contraction, but there are

21 plenty of areas in the colon that I could point to

22 where there is both barium and air.

23 For instance, I would say take a look at

24 1-D, which is a decubitus film, a patient lying on

1 the side, and the barium falls and there are  
2 dependent portions, the air rises up. That's why we  
3 see fluid levels.

4 Q. Sure. Do you see areas of contraction on 1-D?

5 A. On 1-D-I do not. Everything looks very distended.

6 Q. Exactly. Which is the purpose of air; right?

7 A. Correct. Including the segment that you're  
8 interested in, I might add.

9 Q. Where is that? Show us.

10 A. It's right in here.

11 Q. And on 1-C, is that the same that's another  
12 decubitus film?

13 A. Yes, that is correct: Well, no. I beg your pardon.

14 That is not a decubitus film. That's a prone film  
15 shot cross table.

16 Q. Prone. Is that like 1-F?

17 A. It is similar to 1-F in that both of those films  
18 were taken prone. 1-F was taken prone but shooting  
19 the x-ray back to front whereas 1-C was taken with  
20 the patient prone shooting the x-ray side to side.

21 Q. Can you visualize the area of the distal colon in  
22 1-C that we've been discussing?

23 A. The distal colon, yes. This is the rectum here.

24 Rectosigmoid junction is probably in this area right

- 1       here. Then these are loops of the sigmoid colon.
- 2   Q.   Do you see any kind of contraction in the area of
- 3       the distal sigmoid colon on 1-C?
- 4   A.   Contraction, no, I do not.
- 5   Q.   Do you see a narrowing of the lumen?
- 6   A.   No.
- 7   Q.   And on 1-E, can you describe that film for us?
- 8   A.   1-E is a decubitus film with the patient lying on
- 9       the left side, and that's what it is.
- 10   Q.   Do you see any narrowing of the lumen of the -- any
- 11       part of the colon in this patient?
- 12   A.   I do not.
- 13   Q.   On 1-H, that's the post evacuation film?
- 14   A.   Correct.
- 15   Q.   Do you see any narrowing of the lumen of the colon
- 16       of this patient in that film?
- 17   A.   Yes, I do.
- 18   Q.   Where?
- 19   A.   I see a narrowing of the lumen in the cecum and part
- 20       of the right colon where the colon is beginning to
- 21       collapse, which is normal for a post evacuation
- 22       film. And I see narrowing of the small area here.
- 23   Q.   What area are you pointing to?
- 24   A.   I'm pointing to a piece of the sigmoid colon, which

- 1 is narrowed somewhat compared to the other segments  
2 of the sigmoid.
- 3 Q. What about on 1-B?
- 4 A. 1-B looks entirely normal.
- 5 Q. Which position is that taken in?
- 6 A. 1-B is taken supine.
- 7 Q. 1-A, what position is that taken in?
- 8 A. Which one?
- 9 Q. This one.
- 10 A. 1-A, that's an angled shot taken with the patient  
11 prone.
- 12 Q. So 1-A and 1-F are prone films; correct?
- 13 A. Correct.
- 14 Q. Are there any other prone films that were taken?
- 15 A. It looks as though the post evacuation film was  
16 taken prone.
- 17 Q. And on that film, 1-H, you do see a narrowing of the  
18 sigmoid colon; correct?
- 19 A. In that one small area that I pointed to, yes.
- 20 Q. Why is that? Do you have an opinion as to why that  
21 area of that sigmoid colon is narrowed in 1-H?
- 22 A. Yes. It's normal to see areas of narrowing in a  
23 post evacuation film. That's what happens when one  
24 evacuates the colon.



1 Q. Do you believe the American College of Radiology  
2 recommendations represents standards for radiology?

3 A. I believe they represent guidelines.

4 Q. Does your interpretation of this barium enema follow  
5 those guidelines, Doctor?

6 A. I believe it probably does.

7 Q. Let me hand you Exhibit 7. It's a three-page  
8 pathology report.

9 - - - -

10 (Document marked for identification  
11 Deposition Exhibit No. 7.)

12 - - - -

13 Q. I ask you to review it generally to see if you  
14 recall seeing that.

15 A. (Witness reviews document.).

16 I think again a copy of this was attached  
17 to one of those depositions that I read, I think.

18 Q. Sir, now that you've had a chance at my request to  
19 review the operative report of Dr. Meyerhoefer, the  
20 CT scan of Dr. Sayoc, the pathology report that I've  
21 pit in front of you just now, is there any doubt in  
22 your mind that this cancer was never found in the  
23 rectosigmoid junction of this patient?

24 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection.

1 A. That question makes no sense to me.

2 Q. Well, you were just wrong about saying the cancer  
3 was in the rectosigmoid junction in your affidavit,  
4 weren't you?

5 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection.

6 A. I don't believe so.

7 Q. No? You still are of the opinion that this mass was  
8 found in the rectosigmoid junction?

9 A. It says here preop diagnosis, poorly differentiated  
10 add enknow carcinoma of the rectosigmoid. Postop  
11 diagnosis same. That certainly sounds to me like a  
12 rectosigmoid cancer. I don't follow how you say --  
13 I don't understand the confusion.

14 Q. You signed an affidavit based on the information you  
15 were given; right?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. You were given a report where there was --  
18 Dr. Korkor's drawing describing this as being an  
19 area of the rectosigmoid junction; right?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. You read the deposition, though, of Dr. Slezak, the  
22 surgeon, who is being called by Dr. Rovner, and  
23 attached thereto was this report of Dr. Meyerhoefer,  
24 the surgeon; correct?

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. Have you read it?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So it says the same thing, preoperative diagnosis,  
5 rectosigmoid cancer postoperative diagnosis,  
6 rectosigmoid cancer. Reading these reports, though,  
7 it's clear that this cancer was not found at the  
8 rectosigmoid juncture; is that right, doctor?

9 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection.

10 A. Again, I think you're quibbling over terms. It's  
11 not as if we are talking about widely different  
12 areas here. The rectosigmoid junction including, as  
13 I said, a portion of the sigmoid. I think we are  
14 all in the same anatomic area. I'm not certain --

15 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection. Mr. Scanlon,  
16 every report you've shown him says rectosigmoid  
17 junction. Now you want him to interpret  
18 Dr. Meyerhoefer's words? Is that what you're trying  
19 to get at?

20 Q. In retrospect there is an abnormality that's  
21 consistent with the location of where this cancer  
22 was removed from this patient; correct?

23 A. No.

24 Q. No? You didn't say that earlier in this deposition,

1       sir?

2   A.   I don't believe so.

3   Q.   You have testified for the firm of Buckingham

4       Doolittle and Burroughs on how many occasions?

5   A.   I testified at trial?

6   Q.   Yes, sir?

7   A.   I can't tell you the exact number. I'm not certain

8       I've ever testified in a courtroom for that firm.

9   Q.   You've done depositions?

10  A.   Yes, I have.

11  Q.   On how many different occasions do you think you've

12       been deposed in connection with cases where the firm

13       of Buckingham, Doolittle and Burroughs has asked to

14       you render an opinion in favor of their client?

15  A.   I suspect a number of depositions for them. I would

16       put that only a guess because I have not reviewed in

17       any way the numbers -- but maybe five to ten,

18       somewhere in that neighborhood.

19  Q.   So you would agree with Dr. Slezak whose deposition

20       you have been provided, and you have read, that the

21       area that we've been discussing at 1-F, is, in fact,

22       more likely than not the area where the cancer is

23       located in this patient?

24               MR. OCKERMAN: Objection.

1 A. I'd have to go back and look at his deposition. I  
2 don't remember it in detail.

3 Q. So is it your opinion -- I've asked you this now a  
4 couple of times, and I've gotten different answers.  
5 The record will reflect that -- that on 1-F, that  
6 area where I've pointed out a narrowing of the lumen  
7 and the presence of darkness, which you say is air,  
8 that that is, in fact, not caused by cancer? Is  
9 that your opinion in this case?

10 MR. OCKERMAN: Objection.

11 A. My opinion is that the study was interpreted  
12 correctly, that the study is normal.

13 Q. I understand that. I know that. I know that's what  
14 you're here to say?

15 A. I'm not sure how question is any different than  
16 that.

17 Q. I'm asking you if you know retrospectively in this  
18 patient, as you look at that x-ray today, with  
19 everything you've seen in this case, is it your  
20 opinion that that area is not where the cancer was  
21 found, that area of narrowing and darkness?

22 A. Oh, anatomically there is no question that cancer is  
23 diagnosed in the rectosigmoid area. You seem to be  
24 making a big deal out of whether it was exactly at

1     what's been referred to as the rectosigmoid junction  
2     or somewhere else many but there is no question that  
3     that part of the colon is where the cancer is  
4     eventually diagnosed. My opinion is it can't be  
5     diagnosed on those films. It cannot be diagnosed on  
6     the study that we have.

7    Q.   To you that is not a readily visible lesion, what we  
8     see on 1-F; correct?

9    A.   Correct.

10   Q.   You wouldn't describe it as appearing like an apple  
11     core?

12   A.   No.

13   Q.   It doesn't have any characteristics consistent with  
14     plaque?

15   A.   No.

16   Q.   You see no shelving; is that correct?

17   A.   Correct.

18   Q.   But, in fact, the narrowing does create a shelf,  
19     doesn't it, Doctor, at 1-F?

20   A.   Again, we are picking over definitions of words. My  
21     opinion is that the study was interpreted as normal.

22     I still interpret it as normal, and I think you're  
23     trying to make particular words mean particular  
24     things to get me to say something different, but

1       that's my opinion.

2   Q.   I understand. There is no shelving in your opinion,  
3       then in Exhibit 1-F, in the area of the distal  
4       sigmoid colon?

5   A.   Correct.

6   Q.   You do not see the presence of an annular mass?

7   A.   Absolutely not.

8                -----

9                (Document marked for identification

10       Deposition Exhibit No. 8.)

11               -----

12   Q.   Exhibit 8 is the MRI of July 17, 1995. You haven't  
13       seen that film, have you?

14   A.   I have not.

15   Q.   In connection with the opinions you're going to  
16       render in this case, would the MRI of July 17, 1995,  
17       make any difference to that opinion?

18   A.   No, it would not.

19   Q.   Nor would I take it, the CT scan of September of  
20       1995 in a we've previously discussed, September 14;  
21       right?

22   A.   Correct.

23               MR. SCANLON: Let me take a five-minute  
24       break. I may be done.

1                   -----

2                   (Whereupon, there was a recess in the  
3       proceedings.)

4                   -----

5   Q.   We put up on the box your MRI -- our MRI for this  
6       patient from July of 1995. You haven't seen it  
7       before today. We did show you the report. My  
8       question is are you able to identify any view of  
9       that MRI in which you would see an abnormality in  
10      the area of the distal sigmoid colon?

11   A.   On this sheet of film here someone has actually made  
12       some marks on it. I would agree that the area  
13       that's marked is abnormal.

14   Q.   Can you identify which view that is? Is it  
15       numbered, Doctor?

16   A.   It's an axial view. I would say in this particular  
17       group of films it's labeled image 31 of 46, 31/46.  
18       That one is abnormal. 32 is abnormal. 33 is  
19       abnormal. 34 is abnormal.

20   Q.   How would you describe that abnormality?

21   A.   I'd say that that segment of colon shows  
22       circumferential thickening of the wall.

23   Q.   What does that mean, circumferential?

24   A.   It means it's completely surrounding the lumen.



1 Q. Could that cause the lumen to contract?

2 A. It could cause the lumen to be narrow, yes.

3 Q. Would it change the diameter of the bowel itself?

4 A. Of what part of the bowel?

5 Q. External versus internal or would it only control  
6 the internal dimension of the lumen?

7 A. It would be both. The bowel segment itself is  
8 abnormally thick, so abnormally big externally, and  
9 as it goes around circumferentially, it may narrow  
10 the lumen.

11 Q. How would you describe what area of the colon was  
12 involved in those four views?

13 A. These two sheets of film are a part of the same  
14 sequence which are numbered here on this lateral  
15 scout image. The ones I've said are abnormal are 31  
16 through 34 perhaps. That would be down in here, at  
17 least based on these particular images, we are  
18 looking at proximal rectum based on those images  
19 right as the very top of the rectum right before the  
20 sigmoid sweeps in to join it. That's what I would  
21 say based on these particular scout images and these  
22 particular cut that is I think show the abnormality  
23 in question.

24 Q. Let's --

- 1 A. Let me change that just a little bit. Just looking  
2 at this for the first time the interpretation of  
3 these images does take some time. I believe  
4 actually that there are two loops of bowel on those  
5 particular images and that the rectum is actually  
6 part of the rectum is actually behind the segment  
7 that I've called abnormal, so I believe probably the  
8 rectum is collapsed here, and that is actually just  
9 at or just proximal to the rectosigmoid junction.  
10 Now we are seeing two loops, the rectum behind the  
11 abnormal loop in front, so probably right at that  
12 bend and we are catching both loops one in front of  
13 the other. I think that's anatomically really what  
14 we are seeing here.
- 15 Q. When you say proximal to the rectosigmoid junction  
16 in layman's terms, what do you mean, Doctor?
- 17 A. In layman's terms, I mean that segment of colon just  
18 before the rectosigmoid junction, so that would be  
19 the distal end of the sigmoid right as its going to  
20 join the segment that we call the rectum.
- 21 Q. Anything else you want to comment on in those films?
- 22 A. I think that's the case. There are a lot of images  
23 here, and you really haven't given me the time that  
24 I really need to feel confident about this. But on

1 a quick first look, that's the segment that's  
2 abnormal. Whether it's proximal part of the rectum  
3 or right at the rectosigmoid juncture even the  
4 distal part of the sigmoid, I'm not totally certain  
5 of without going through every image piece by piece.  
6 But that's how I would interpret that.

7 Q. Thank you. Doctor, you've HAD a moment to look at  
8 the CT scans of September 14, '95; correct?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Do you see any abnormality in that study in the area  
11 of the distal sigmoid colon?

12 A. I think that there is some abnormality here in the  
13 proximal rectum where there is some thickening of  
14 the wall, and that extends into the distal part of  
15 the sigmoid as well where there is some thickening  
16 of the wall and probably I would describe as some  
17 stranding or some streaking of the tissue into the  
18 pericolic fat. That's about the only other  
19 abnormality. It's really not an abnormality but the  
20 uterine line something extremely thick. I  
21 understand she just delivered or had recently  
22 delivered a baby, so that would be normal.

23 Q. Do you see an annular carcinoma of the distal  
24 sigmoid colon of about five centimeters?

1 A. I see thickening of the wall of the colon in that  
2 area, which is probably due to the cancer, but that  
3 would not have been my way of expressing that.

4 Q. How would you have expressed it?

5 A. Just as I stated to you, abnormal thickening of the  
6 wall.

7 Q. If you had known there had been a previous diagnosis  
8 of cancer, would you have said something different  
9 in your report?

10 A. I may or may not have. At the very most, I may have  
11 said thickening of the wall in the area previously  
12 diagnosed cancer, something to that effect.

13 Q. Is this a circumferential finding in the area of the  
14 distal colon similar to what we said you saw in the  
15 MRI?

16 A. It's not as clearly circumferential on this  
17 particular study as I felt it was on the MRI. I  
18 wouldn't be so certain of that based on this study.

19 Q. Now that you've seen the MRI and the CT scan, would  
20 you agree that that thickening of the wall of the  
21 colon is in the area of that contraction shown on  
22 the barium enema study?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. No doubt in your mind?

1 A. It's the same anatomic area.

2 Q. And do you have an opinion one way or another

3 whether or not endoscopic exam of Theresa in

4 December of '94 would have led to the diagnosis of

5 cancer?

6 A. I do have an opinion.

7 Q. What's that opinion?

8 A. I suspect it probably would have.

9 Q. Do you have an opinion whether or not that diagnosis

10 would have led to a different outcome?

11 A. I don't have an opinion on that.

12 MR. SCANLON: Doctor, I have no further

13 questions. Thank you for your time today.

14 - - - -

15 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded

16 at {time} {a.m.|p.m.})

17 - - - -

18 5:

19

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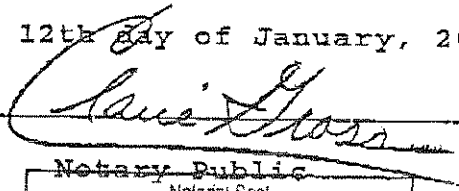
1 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ) CERTIFICATE  
2 COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY ) SS:

3 I, Claire Gross, RDR, a Court Reporter and Notary  
4 Public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do  
5 hereby certify that the witness, LAWRENCE COOPERSTEIN,  
6 M.D., was by me first duly sworn to testify to the truth,  
7 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; that the  
8 foregoing deposition was taken at the time and place  
9 stated herein; and that the said deposition was recorded  
10 stenographically by me and then reduced to printing under  
11 my direction, and constitutes a true record of the  
12 testimony given by said witness.

13 I further certify that the inspection, reading and  
14 signing of said deposition were not waived by counsel for  
15 the respective parties and by the witness.

16 I further certify that I am not a relative, employee  
17 or attorney of any of the parties, or a relative or  
18 employee of either counsel, and that I am in no way  
19 interested directly or indirectly in this action.

20 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and  
21 affixed my seal of office this 12th day of January, 2000.

22   
23 Notary Public  
24 Notarial Seal  
Claire Gross, Notary Public  
Pittsburgh, Allegheny County  
My Commission Expires May 9, 2002  
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries