

THE STATE OF OHIO,)
) SS:
COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA.)

FEB 16 11 00 AM '88

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

JEFFREY L. DZIGIEL, et al.,)

Plaintiffs,)

v.)

WILLIAM BRUCK, M.D., et al.,)

Defendants.)

Case No. 125340

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Deposition of ROBERT CURTIS CORN, M.D.,
taken by the Plaintiffs as if upon cross-examination
before Lisa Hrovat, a Notary Public within and for the
state of Ohio, at the offices of Robert Curtis Corn,
M.D., 850 Brainard Road, Highland Heights, Ohio, on
Monday, the 18th day of January, 1988, commencing at
5:00 p.m., by agreement of counsel.

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1 APPEXRANCES :

2 Joseph L. Coticchia, Esq.,

3 On behalf of the Plaintiffs.

4 Jacobson, Maynard, Tuschman & Kalur Co., L.P.A., by:
5 Thomas H. Terry III, Esq.

6 and

7 Robert C. Maynard, Esq.,

8 On behalf of Defendants Dr. Bruck and
9 Dr. Kovaeh.

10 Arter & Hadden by:
11 Victoria L. Vance, Esq.,

12 On behalf of Defendant St. Luke's Hospital.

13 STIPULATIONS

14 It is stipulated by and between counsel for
15 the respective parties that this deposition may be
16 taken in stenotypy by Lisa Hrovat and that her stenotype
17 notes may be subsequently transcribed in the absence of
18 the witness.

ROBERT C. CORN, M.D.,

called by the Plaintiffs for the purpose of cross-examination, **as** provided by the Ohio Rules of civil procedure, being by me first duly sworn, **as** hereinafter certified, deposes and **says** as follows:

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. COTICCHIA:

Q. Dr. Corn, will you please state your full name?

A. Robert Curtis Corn.

Q. What is your business address?

A. 850 Brainard Road in Highland Heights, Ohio.

MR. TERRY: Can we go on the record for just a moment? I just want to show that Steve Albert who represents Marymount Hospital **was** notified of the fact this deposition was going forward **at** 5:00. It is now 5:20 on the 18th and no one has appeared, and we have decided to go forward.

This is a deposition being taken by agreement and it is being taken pursuant to Rule 26-B of the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure. Is that a fair statement?

MR. COTICCHIA: **Yes.**

Q. (BY MR. COTICCHIA) What is your residential address, Doctor?

-1
A. I live in Cuyahoga County.

Q. What is your address, your home address?

A. River Road in Gates Mills,
Ohio.

Q. The number?

A. There is no street number.

Q. Are you a specialist in medicine?

A. Yes.

Q. What is your specialty?

A. Orthopedic surgery.

Q. Are you board certified?

A. Yes.

Q. When were you board certified?

A. 1980.

Q. When did you obtain your license to practice
law in Ohio?

MR. TERRY: Medicine.

Q. (BY MR. COTICCHIA) I mean medicine.

A. I didn't realize I had a law degree.

Q. Do you have a resume or curriculum vitae? ^{1976.}

A. I don't have one right with me.

Q. Rather than go into that right now, would you
mail a copy to me or send it to your attorney and he will
mail it to me?

A. I can give you one at the conclusion of the
deposition.

1 Q. Thank **you**. Do **you** spend **75** percent of your
2 professional time in the clinical practice of medicine?

3 A. I spend probably **90** percent of my **time** in the
4 clinical practice of medicine.

5 Q. Today prior to this deposition, what records,
6 or reports, or letters, hospital records, whatever, did
7 you review in regard to the treatment of Jeffrey Dzigiel?

8 A. I reviewed records from St. Luke's Hospital,
9 records that were provided from the Industrial Commission
10 of Ohio, records from Marymount Hospital and . . .
11 interoperative pictures that were taken during the first..
12 open operation **as** well **as** a copy of **the** Plaintiff's
13 expert report, Dr. Wise or Weiss, from Columbus.

15 that you are referring to in the interoperative report?

16 A. I believe these are from the first open
17 operation, the arthrotomy, which is 1-8-85.

18 Q. Did you, along with reviewing the medical.
19 records, consult or review any medical textbooks in the
20 area of orthopedics?

21 A. I did not review any particular textbooks, no.
22 Orthopedic infections is one of my areas of
23 interest, **and** I have a pretty good working knowledge of
24 the **old** literature as well as **the** current. I didn't feel
25 it was necessary to review any of the major textbooks.

3 Q. What textbooks do You have here in your office?

2 MR. TERRY: Objection.

3 A. I have a recent copy of Campbell's on
4 orthopedics, I have an **old** copy of Campbell's. I have a
5 lot of them. Do **you** want me to list all of them?

6 Q. (BY MR. COTICCHIA) A few of them. Do you
7 consider Campbell's on Orthopedics an authoritative
8 source?

9 A. I think it is an authoritative source. It
10 comes from one particular clinic that has a somewhat
11 conservative background, but it is a good text for
12 orthopedic surgery. It is not the Bible, but it is a
13 good textbook. I have a copy of Turek, **T-u-r-e-k**,
14 principals in Orthopedics. There are probably **40** other
15 books listed, I am not really sure. If you have any
16 **specific** ones you would like me to review, I would **be**
17 happy to tell you if I have them,

18 Q. What medical journals or publications do you
19 subscribe to?

20 A. I subscribe to the Journal of Bone and Joint
21 Surgery, both British and American, to Clinical
22 Orthopedics and Related Research, to the Orthopedic
23 Clinics of North America, the Orthopedic Audio Synopsis
24 Tapes, which are monthly CME, continuous medical
25 education, as well as a variety of instructional course

lectures published by the American Academy of Orthopedic surgery as well as the Yearbook of Orthopedics published by Yearbook Publishing Company.

4 Q. I didn't get the very first one you mentioned,

5 A. The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, both
6 American and British.

7 Q. Have **you** written any articles which have been
8 published pertaining to any field in orthopedics?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. What were the topics; and when were they=
11 published?

12 MR. TERRY: I thought we agreed the doctor
13 would send me a copy of his curriculum vitae and you can
14 have all of that stuff, Joe. I am sure it is listed in
15 there.

16 A. I don't remember the exact dates.

17 Q. Are they listed in your resume?

18 A. They are listed in my curriculum vitae, yes.

19 Q. Do they deal with infections?

20 A. A number of them deal with orthopedic
21 infections, including some major talks that I have given,
22 including the talks to the Cleveland Orthopedic Society.

23 Q. All right. Do you know the Defendant, Dr.
24 Bruck?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Have **you** talked to Dr. Bruck at any time since
2 the inception of this case?

3 A. I don't know Dr. Bruck.

4 Q. You don't know him at all?

5 A. I don't know him at all.

6 Q. Do you know the defendant, Dr. Kovach?

7 A. I know of Dr. Kovach. I don't know him
8 personally, though.

9 Q. Have you talked to him over the phone or
10 through correspondence since the inception of this case?

11 A. Absolutely not,

12 Q. Do you receive your professional liability
13 insurance from Physician's Insurance Exchange?

14 MR. TERRY: Objection. Instruct you not
15 to answer.

16 A. Yes, I do.

17 MR. COTICCHIA: He has already answered.

18 MR. TERRY: I am sorry. Move to strike.

19 Q. (BY MR. COTICCHIA) Have you ever been on any
20 review committees or review panels for Physician's
21 Insurance Exchange?

22 MR. TERRY: Objection. Direct you not to
23 answer. I would indicate for the record that I am not
24 Dr. Corn's personal attorney, and actually I can't direct
25 him not to answer anything. I am recommending that he

1 not answer these because the questions are outside the
2 scope of Rule 26-B which **is** the limited rule authorizing
3 this deposition.

4 **As** Mr. Coticchia **is** well aware, he has **the**
5 right to determine what the doctor's opinions are
6 and the basis of those opinions. The questions that he
7 is seeking answers to at this time ~~are found to be~~
8 irrelevant and inadmissable.

9 There is **a** Court of Appeals' decision
10 **out of** the 8th District Court of Appeals **that holds that**
11 to be a fact. And I would appreciate it if Mr. Coticchia
12 moved on and completed the deposition as permitted by
13 rule.

14 **Q.** Doctor, are you going to answer that last
15 question?

16 **A.** I have been directed not to. If you want me
17 to, and if the other attorneys --

18 **Q.** I want you to. He is not your attorney.

19 MR. COTICCHIA: In response, id you want to
20 go into a legal argument, I have a right to ask that
21 question. You don't have a right to tell the witness
22 not to answer the question,

23 MR. TERRY: Sure I do,

24 MR. COTICCHIA: It **is** relevant because
25 your expert is insured by the same company the defendants
ants

1 are.

2 MR. TERRY: That, too, is irrelevant.
3 The case law clearly holds that it is irrelevant, Mr.
4 coticchia. If you want to get into the 26-B(4) decision,
5 fine: otherwise, as far as I am concerned, I can pack
6 everything up and call it a day. I may end up paying
7 money, but we will not go forward until it is--resolved by
8 the Judge. That is quite simply --

9 MR. COTICCHIA: The case of Ralston Purina
10 Company versus McFarland, 550 F 2d 967-(1977) holds that
11 you may not instruct the witness not to answer a
12 question, particularly an expert witness for the defense.
1 It is obviously important or you would not have told him
1 not to answer.

1 MR. TERRY: That is a great way to figure
1 it out.

1 MR. COTICCHIA: It is relevant because the
11 expert is insured by the same company as the Defendants,
12 so it is obviously relevant or will lead to relevant
20 information.

21 MR. TERRY: That is the most ridiculous
22 position that I have heard asserted yet.

23 MR. COTICCHIA: I agree-with you, Mr.
24 Terry, we will let the Court decide that. I found this
25 Court is a little more sensible on some of your arguments,

1 MR. TERRY: Fine with me.

2 Q. (BY MR. COTICCHIA) I would like to get some
3 terms defined, Doctor, before we get into the discussion
4 of the treatment.

5 Does septic mean bacteria or infection in the
6 blood?

7 A. I am sorry?

8 Q. Does the word septic, s-e-p-t-i-e, mean
9 bacteria or infection in the blood?

10 A. It can mean that. 'Septic usually is an
11 adjective. It is not a noun. It can be septic areas,
12 sepsis.

13 Q. Sepsis.

14 A. Sepsis can be a blood borne or
15 widespread infection.

16 Q. What does articular surface mean?

17 A. Articular surface is the surface of two
18 adjacent bones that join forming a joint. It is usually
19 made up of cartilage, and surrounded by a joint capsule
20 and synovium or lining of the joints.

21 Q. What is cartilage?

22 A. Cartilage is a compound that is a very complex
23 protein polysaccharide, that is a very complex sugar and
24 protein combination of amino acids and sugars which has a
25 very high water content, and because of its high water

11
3 question. **And** I think penicillin, again, in appropriate
2 dosages, can be given **in** a hip joint infection but I don't
3 think this man had a hip joint infection.

4 Q. On the second page of your report, Doctor, **you**
E state that there were some intra-articular fragments **that**
6 were preventing complete relocation of the hip. **You go**
7 on to state "unusual osteochondral fracture with multiple
8 loose pieces in the joint." -

9 Dr. Corn, isn't this substantial bony
10 destruction of Jeffrey Dzigiel's joint surface?

11 A. No, there wasn't substantial destruction. -
12 There are inoperative pictures that show this **is a small**
13 portion of the femoral head, but there is damage of
14 floating pieces. If this **was** due to an infection, the
15 whole femoral head would have been involved and not a
16 small section of the femoral head.

17 Q. What are these pieces evidencing?

18 A. A fracture, an injury, **a** traumatic incident.

19 Q. This is not, in your opinion, an indication of
20 a joint infection?

21 A. In this case, after looking at the pictures,
22 no, it is not indicative of **a** joint infection.

23 Q. Wouldn't the infection first affect the
24 cartilage before it affected the bony structure of the
25 femoral head?

1 content and chemical composition, makes it very slippery,
2 **It is** basically a complex that allows for tremendous
3 loads, both weight-bearing and muscle, to pull without **any**
4 destruction to itself.

5 Q. Is the cartilage usually found over the joint
6 **surface**?

7 A. A type of cartilage or hyaline cartilage is a
8 type of cartilage that is found in adjoining areas that
9 make up the joints. There are elastic cartilage, fibro
10 cartilage and several other things, but I am assuming **you**
11 are limiting the discussion to hyaline.

12 Q. What is the acetabulum?

13 MR. TERRY: I am going to object. If he
14 wants a definition of these things, he should buy a
15 dictionary. He is, under Rule 26-B, not to get an
16 education, but find out the opinions and the basis of the
17 opinion. Steadrnan's Medical Dictionary provides answers
18 to each and every one of the questions so far.

19 Q. (BY MR. COTICCHIA) What is the acetabulum,
20 Doctor?

21 A. The acetabulum is the pelvic components of the
22 hip joint.

23 Q. Is that what we as laymen refer to **as** the
24 socket of the hip?

25 A. It can be called what is referred to **as** the

socket of the hip.

Q. What is the femur?

A. It is the thigh bone, the largest bone in the human body.

Q. Calling your attention to a model of a bone in the pelvic area, do you recognize that model?

A. Yes.

Q. Does it reasonably depict the hip joint and femur as well as the acetabulum?

10 A. Yes.

1: Q. What is the femoral head?

1: A. The femoral head is the upper end of the thigh
13 bone or femur that is the ball part of the ball and
14 socket joints which composes the hip.

15 Q. What is osteomyelitis?

16 A. Osteomyelitis is defined as a chronic
17 inflammatory condition of bone as the etiology of
18 microorganism or a group of microorganisms.

19 Q. What is a girdlestone surgical procedure?

20 A. A girdlestone surgical procedure is --
21 classically it is a procedure wherein a portion of the
22 neck and femur are removed as well as the supra and
23 supralateral aspect of the acetabulum are excised.

24 Q. What is subluxation of the hip or hip joints?

25 MR. TERRY: Objection.

1 A. Subluxation is defined as a partial slippage
2 or eccentric arrangement between the ball and the socket
3 part of the hip joint.

4 Q. What is a staph infection?

5 MR. TERRY: Objection.

6 A. A staph infection is an infection with the
7 etiology or the organism cultured as a staph'species.

8 Q. Do you have a copy of your letter to Mr. Terry
9 dated August 13, 1987?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Is it your opinion that a staphylococcus
12 aureus infection of the hip would destroy the hip in a
13 three- to five-day period?

14 A. A staph infection of the hip joint or any
15 joint will destroy the articular cartilage within three
16 to five days, yes.

17 Q. Articular cartilage?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. We are not referring to the bone itself?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Don't indolent or low-grade infection or a
22 common variety -- let me repeat this.

23 Do you agree that there are many bacteria
24 that don't necessarily follow a destructive or fulminant
25 course?

1 MR. TERRY: Objection. I am not sure
2 what you mean by fulminant course.

3 Q. Rapid or wide spread.

4 A. There are certain bacterial infections which
5 are of the lower virulence and lower grade, but these are
6 usually skin contaminants and are very rarely associated
7 with a septic joint without direct inoculation with the
8 needle or some other procedure.

9 Q. There are low-grade infections, aren't there,
10 that are common with a variety of bacteria?

11 MR. TERRY: Objection. That calls-for
12 speculation on the part of the witness.

13 MS. VANCE: It is impossible to answer,
14 medically.

15 A. I don't know how to-answer your question. I
16 really don't.

17 Q. You were discussing in your report that Dr.
18 Bruck had ordered penicillin.

19 Can the course of a low-grade infection be
20 masked by the use of penicillin?

21 A. The course of a low-grade infection could be
22 masked by massive doses of penicillin uses parentally,
23 intramuscularly or intravenously. I-have never seen
24 penicillin in and of itself slow down a significant
25 infection, at least not in this day and age.

1 Q. And this was an ongoing thing, wasn't it?

2 MR. TERRY: Objection.

3 A. The fever --

4 Q. (BY MR. COTICCHIA) What was it?

5 a. He had a low-grade fever. I am not sure it was
6 102 the whole time, but was 102 during the day.

7 Q. In your opinion, during this approximate month
8 of treatment, you didn't think it was necessary for Dr.
9 Bruck to order a blood culture?

10 A. I don't think it was clear from review of the
11 medical records that this man was having shaking chills
12 or having spikes of temperature elevation during this
13 month period of time.

1 From what I understand, and also reading
2 through the notes, there was nothing that would suggest
3 doing any kind of blood cultures. I certainly wouldn't
4 order blood cultures on an outpatient. If I thought he
5 was serious enough, I would have brought him in the
6 hospital and done blood cultures. It was mainly
7 complaints of pain and not complaints of fever and pain,
8 and night sweats, and things that would indicate a
9 systemic infection.

23 Q. On September 30, 1985 Dr. Bruck's notes show
24 that Jeffrey Dzigiel had a temperature of 102.

25 MR. TERRY: Is that a question?

1 muscle rupture which would certainly account for the
2 problems in the early stages of the atelectasis and prior
3 to the first arthrotomy procedure.

4 Q. Do you agree that Dr. Bruck should have
5 obtained periodic blood cultures to determine the
6 presence of infection in Jeffrey Dzigiel's blood?

7 A. I don't believe that blood cultures are
8 without severe spikes and temperature elevations and
9 fevers and chills because it is probably going to be a
10 normal and extensive blood test to run, and you don't
11 find out about it for 24 to 48 hours.

12 Q. How long did Jeffrey's treatment with Dr.
13 Bruck last?

14 A. I don't remember. At least a couple weeks.
15 I can't remember the exact dates, from September 23rd
16 until --

17 Q. October 29th?

18 A. October 14th is the first time he saw Dr.
19 Kovach, so it was about a month, a little less than a
20 month.

21 Q. If I am not mistaken, don't Dr. Bruck's notes
22 or office charts state that he had a temperature of a 102
23 degrees?

24 A. I think in one of the notes it did say that,
25 yes.

1 MR. COTICCHIA: I don't know. It is what
2 the doctor has put in his report.

3 MR. TERRY: Why don't you refer to it?

4 Q. What time period were you referring to?

5 A. Tell me in the report where I said that. I
6 don't remember where it is. Okay. It is at the top
7 of Page 3.

8 Q. Right at the beginning of Page 3, right.

9 A. One of the most common reasons is a mild
10 atelectasis for any obese person who would remain
11 sedentary for long periods of time. It is probably one
12 of the most common causes of low-grade fever. This may
13 not be visible on a chest X-ray.

14 Q. Is it your opinion, based on reasonable
15 medical certainty, that Jeffrey Dzigiel's elevated
16 temperature was caused by atelectasis due to his obesity?

17 A. One of my differential diagnoses would be
18 that. I don't know that that would be my only diagnosis.
19 That is certainly one of the diagnoses I would entertain
20 if this was my patient.

21 Q. Well, now that you have gone through all of
22 his treatment records, what do you attribute the fever to?

23 A. I am not sure where his fever was coming from.
24 I would be willing to bet it came from his lungs, or from
25 the blood clot, or the hematoma that formed from the

1 Q. Should Dr. Kovach have specifically ordered
2 tissue stains to determine the presence of bacteria or
3 microorganisms?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Is it something the hospital should do?

6 A. I am sure the hospital did it. Pathologists
7 cannot make a diagnosis without stains. You cannot even
8 see anything on the slides without stains. He makes an
9 excellent tissues diagnosis which is compatible with the
10 entire clinical picture. Just because he doesn't mention
11 stains doesn't mean they were not done. There is no
12 specific need for specific stains to rule out infection.
13 The typical garden variety of stains used in all
14 preparation of pathological specimens would have picked
15 up microorganisms, or at least an increase in white blood
16 cells, and it says nothing of that sort.

17 Q. You go on to discuss and wonder what the cause
18 of the temperature was that Jeffrey Dzigiel was running.

19 Is it your opinion, based on reasonable
20 medical certainty, that Jeffrey Dzigiel's elevated
21 temperature was due to atelectasis caused by his obesity?

22 MR. TERRY: Objection. I want you to
23 figure out in your question, Mr. Coticchia, what time
24 period you are talking about. Immediately after the
25 injury? After the initial procedure? When?

1 A. The hemotoxin, which is used in staining all
2 tissue, would pick up infection.

3 Q. (BY MR. COTICCHIA) There **is** nothing in the
4 path report mentioned,?

5 A. They **usually** don't have to mention it because
6 it is the major stain they use. You can't see the cells
7 until you stain them. They look like little **clear** areas
8 of tissue. And the stain -- You have to remember when the
9 tissue is removed they, just don't stick **it** under **a**
10 microscope.. They first have to remove the water-content
11 and then they have to remove that and replace it with
12 alcohol and replace it with a xylene, which is
13 another type of chemical, and cut in very, very thin
14 sections **and** put it on **a** slide. And if you held up that
15 slide before staining, **it** would have **like a** smudge, a
16 fingerprint-. It is a typical stain they use, which is the
17 H and E stain, that would easily pick **up a** microorganism.

18 Q. You would say, on a presumption, that that **was**
19 done by the people in the path lab?

20 A. Yes, I am assuming it was done in the path
21 lab.

22 Q. My question is, there is nothing stated in
23 that report about this test being done?

24 A. I don't know. No, there is nothing exactly
25 about what was done, no.

1 months, I would expect probably a good four or five shot
2 glasses full of pus or some infected looking material,
3 and there was none described.

4 Q. Assuming that he has got this penicillin,
5 wouldn't it be normal to find a lot of cloudy fluid
6 rather than pus under these circumstances?

7 A. I don't know how anybody could say that.

8 Q. Now, you mentioned there was nothing stated in
9 the path report.

10 Can a pathologist determine the presence of
11 infection if he hasn't specifically stained the tissue
specimen from the joint surface for microorganisms?

12 MR. TERRY: Objection.

13 A. Most pathologists, it would be negligence on
14 their part to fail to make a diagnosis on the tissues
15 obtained. The tissue does not need any special stain for
16 infection unless it was tuberculosis which, obviously,
17 this gentleman did not have. In general, most
18 pathologists would stain and look for something. I am
19 sure they were suspicious. And most doctors, when they do
20 a procedure, will discuss the case with a pathologist
21 where a pathologist is usually aware.

22 Q. Would you agree a stain is necessary to look
23 for microorganisms in case of an infection of the hip?

24 MR. TERRY: Objection.

tissue fragments with areas of hemmorrhage and repair tissue from right hip joint.

Q. could that also be in reference to the cartilage?

A. It says bony and fibrous tissue. Cartilage can look like fibrous tissue when it is ground up and involved with hemorrhagenic process of injury; although it doesn't say much about cartilage here. There was basically something that looked like a blood clot and something that looked like bloody bone. This was called a cartilaginous fracture.

Q. You go on to mention there was no pus found in the area of the hip joint.

If there was an infection, wouldn't that hip joint-infection be modified by the use of antibiotics so that there would not be the presence of pus?

A. Well, what I mean by that statement that there was no pus in the joint, it is clear that in the path report there was no obvious sign of infection, there was no signs of infectious organisms in the soft tissue that was studied, and there was no evidence of an infection on the pathology specimen. The fracture could have an infection without pus, of course. But usually when there is a significant amount of fluid in the so-called septum joint that has been there allegedly for almost two

1 that time that Dr. Kovach elected to go in with the
2 arthrotomy and the exploration after an attempted closed
3 reduction that didn't work.

4 Q. The arthrotomy did not disclose a fracture,
5 did it?

6 A. I believe it did. It showed loose pieces in
7 the joints, and it showed there was loss of articular
8 cartilage in certain areas of the loose pieces that were
9 in the joint.

10 Q. There was no fracture found in the acetabulum,
11 correct?

12 A. Yes, that's correct.

13 Q. And the loose pieces?

14 A. Were from the femoral head.

15 Q. Are they cartilage or actually bony structure?

16 A. I believe they were cartilage that was torn
17 away from the bone so there may have been one with it. I
18 don't really recall. I would have to look at the path
19 report. You would probably find it a little bit easier
20 to find than I would. I have to go through all of these
21 records to find where the slip is.

22 Q. I am going to give you my copy. Is there
23 anything in that path report that describes the tissue as
24 bony structure from the femoral head?

25 A. It says bony fibrous tissue and granulation

1 for weeks just from bleed^ding into muscles, bleeding into
2 the **deep** tissues.

3 Q That is after surgery?

4 A. You can see it prior to trauma after surgery.
5 It depends on the amount of bleeding in the tissue.

6 Q. In this case Jeffrey **Dzigiel** did not sustain
7 any trauma: by that I mean a blow to his hip, **did he?**

8 A. From what my understand^{ing} is, **it was**
9 initially felt there was a muscle rupture, and later it
10 was felt that it **was** a somewhat unusual fracture in which
11 part of the articular surface separated from the femoral
12 head. From what I understand of the injury, there was
13 no direct blow, such as a **fall**, or being struck by a **car**,
14 or something like that. It was an unusual body
15 positioning.

16 Q. Don't the x-rays, until the open reduction,
17 fail to show the clear fracture in the joint surface of
18 Jeffrey **Dzigiel**?

19 A. I believe the first x-ray didn't show anything
20 abnormal other than the subluxation with the CAT scan
21 that was performed. But the x-rays, if one goes through
22 them, were very difficult to interpret because of the
23 patient's size. The quality of the x-rays did not allow
24 one to visualize the deep structures, but the **CAT scan**
25 did **show** there were fragments of the joint, **and** it was at

1 A. We are dealing with a time period, the time of
2 injury, which is September 23, 1985, to the arthrotomy
3 which was performed on 11-5-85. That is almost **two**
4 months. I would say the infection would be highly
5 unlikely, as there would have been **a** great deal more soft
6 tissue and bony involvement, and there was none.

7 In my opinion, this again was from-increased
8 amount of fluid, which was ~~causing~~ **the** subluxation **as**
9 well as the fractures. There was never a culture taken,
10 nor any other evidence of a septic infection or
11 osteomyelitis in any of the records. So I think this
12 man, in my opinion, did not have an infection.,- ..

13 Q. **You** are aware that throughout the course of
14 this treatment, going back **as** early as Dr. Bruck's
15 charts, Jeffrey Dzigiel had a low-grade temperature?

16 A. Low-grade temperature, yes, but that is a
17 very, very common -- in my mind, it is not a significant
18 problem.

19 Q. It is a symptom of low-grade infection?

20 A. A temperature elevation is **a** symptom of **a**
21 low-grade infection or can be a symptom of a low-grade
22 infection. It can also be normal for **some** people, and
23 it can **also** be indicative **of a** severe inflammatory
24 process or bleeding into a tissue. It is not unusual
25 after fractures or major surgery for people to run **fevers**

1 Q. you mentioned that penicillin was not **your**
2 **drug of choice**. What would You have recommended rather
3 than penicillin if **you** were in Dr. Bruck's position?

4 MR. TERRY: Objection.

5 A. If you are asking me if I had
6 a choice of another antibiotic, would I use another one,
7 and my answer would be yes, and I would use a
8 cephalosporin antibiotic.

9 Q. Is that why Dr. Bruck should **not have used**
10 penicillin?

11 A. I didn't say he shouldn't have used
12 penicillin. I said I would have used **a** different
13 medication.

14 Q. What kind of bacteria or infection was Dr.
15 Bruck trying to fight when he ordered this penicillin?

16 A. I have no idea.

17 Q. There is nothing in the record to indicate
18 that, is there?

19 A. No. It could have been anything from a sore
20 throat to pneumonia.

21 Q. Does penicillin work to fight **a** hip infection?

22 MR. TERRY: Objection.

23 A. I have never seen a hip infection in an adult.
24 I don't think they are very common when young -- this
25 is **a septic hip problem**. You are **asking me a theoretical**

1 MR. COTICCHIA: No. It is just to clarify
2 the record.

3 MR. TERRY: I move to strike that. If
4 I want to take your deposition, I will do it.

5 MR. COTICCHIA: Lots of luck, Terry.

6 Q. If the fever, despite the penicillin,
7 persisted, is it still your opinion that Dr. Bruck should
8 not have ordered blood cultures?

9 MR. TERRY: Objection. I don't think that
10 question is relevant, ...

11 A. I don't think I can answer that. It is a
12 hypothetical situation. I don't know. I don't have
13 an opinion.

14 Q. Is it your opinion that Jeffrey Dziedzic had an
15 intra-articular fracture of the hip?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Exactly where was the hip fracture, if you can
18 show us on the model?

19 A. Well, unfortunately, the model -- I would have
20 to take it apart.

21 Q. You may certainly do that.

22 A. It is difficult to say on the pictures exactly
23 what portion of the femoral head was involved, but it was
24 clearly around the weight-bearing surface somewhere
25 around the superior aspect of the ball.

1 Q. For the record, you are pointing to the top?

2 A. Essentially, somewhere in the weight-bearing
3 surface, yes.

4 Q. What do you base that opinion on?

5 A. The operative description and interoperative
6 photographs.

7 Q. Is it your opinion that the fracture not only
included cartilage, but also the bony structure of the
femoral head?

10 A. There was bony involvement of the femoral head.
11 I am not sure how significant-a piece of the femoral head
12 was damaged. That was not clear by the photographs, the
13 x-rays or by the operative note.

14 Q. Was there any fracture within the acetabulum?

15 A. There was none noticed.

16 Q. Is it your opinion-that the fracture at the
17 surface of the hip joint caused an increase in the joint
18 fluid?

19 A. Absolutely, yes.

20 Q. Is it your opinion that the increase in the
21 joint fluid caused Jeffrey Dziqiel's subluxation of the
22 hip?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And as you said, is subluxation a moving away
25 from the center of the head and socket?

1 A. I don't believe those are my words, but
2 essentially.

3 Q. In substance?

4 A. In essence, yes. In other words, the hip will
5 not center itself, ~~will~~ not come into its normal location
6 due to hydrostatic pressure pushing it apart.

7 Q. Do you agree that intra-articular fractures
8 alone will not cause a low-grade temperature? When I
9 speak of intra-articular fractures, I am ~~s~~peaking of --

10 A. Just the physical presence?

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. No, not the physical presence, but the
13 body's reaction to them may. In other words, there would
14 be increased circulation, there would be a tremendous
15 increase in inflammatory response, a tremendous change in
16 the circulatory response, and this could cause a mild
17 temperature elevation.

18 Q. Isn't it well established that an
19 intra-articular joint infection causes an increase in
20 fluid accumulation?

21 A. There are certain **hip** joint infections which
22 can increase the hydrostatic pressure, yes: some, not
23 all.

24 Q. Can we agree that the arthrotomy done by Dr.
25 Kovach on Jeffrey Dzigiel disclosed joint damage?

1 consisting of right hip joint infection?

2 MR. TERRY: Objection.

3 A. No, I don't believe so.

4 Q. (BY MR. COTICCHIA) We have established or you
5 have agreed that a hip infection can cause an increase in
6 fluid within the hip joint?

7 A. In the pediatric age group, in the--childhood
8 age group.

9 Q. An increase in the fluid can cause subluxation
10 of the hip joint?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Mr. Dzigiel had an increase in the hip joint
13 fluid, did he not?

14 A. I don't know. I was not there at the-time of
15 surgery. That is one of the theories that I am working
16 on.

17 Q. There is something to that effect in Dr.
18 Kovach's records, aren't there?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. All right. We know at some point he had an
21 infection, didn't he?

22 A. No, we don't know that at all. There was
23 never any documented positive culture-other than drainage
24 positive culture.

25 Q. From the wound site?

1 A. Yes, I think **we** can establish that.

2 Q. If the intra-articular fractures of the **bone**
3 are present, doesn't this indicate damage to the
4 articular surface of the femoral head?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do you agree that a persistent temperature **is**
7 a cause of infection?

8 MR. TERRY: Objection. Asked **and** answered.

9 A. I do not think that one can automatically
10 assume that any rise in temperature, either for a long or
11 short term of time, is solely due to infection, No, I
12 disagree with that.

13 Q. (BY MR. COTICCHIA) Do you agree without a
14 blood culture that shows no bacterial growth you cannot
15 rule out the diagnosis of hip infection?

16 A. Hip joint infection has absolutely nothing to
17 do with what is circulating around the blood. You can
18 have a whopping hip infection, **as** is **very** commonly seen
19 in children and not seen in adults, and have a normal
20 blood culture **and** no organisms in the **blood** culture.
21 Blood culture, all it establishes is there were organisms
22 in the blood stream and not anywhere else.

23 You see the abscesses in the abdomen,
24 abscesses in knee joints as well as other **areas**, brain
25 abscesses. You don't have to have a positive **blood**

culture.

Q. So in theory, we can agree that Jeffrey Dzigiel could have a sub-acute joint infection and yet a negative blood count?

MR. TERRY: Objection.

A. I am not stating that. He did not have a sub-acute joint infection.

Q. I am speaking theoretically.

1 A. I don't like to speak theoretically. Is there
1 a question?.

1 Q. You just stated, **didn't you**, a person can have
1: a perfect hip and the blood culture come-back negative?

1. A. It is unusual, but it is possible.

14 Q. Do you agree that Jeffrey Dzigiel's medical
15 records disclose a lengthy progressive and painful
16 clinical course?

17 A. Absolutely.

18 Q. Do you agree that x-ray findings disclose
19 subluxation of the right hip?

20 MR. TERRY: Objection. Which ones?

21 Q. (BY MR. COTICCHIA) Whatever x-rays you
22 referred to in your report.

23 A. There are x-rays that were taken which do
24 reveal there is subluxation of the hip joint.

25 Q. Aren't these **also** symptoms or findings

1 A. From the drain site. Not the wound site, the
2 drain site. And on the final definitive pathological
3 report at St. Luke's of the femoral head, there was no
4 evidence of osteomyelitis.

5 I would clearly think any orthopedic surgeon,
6 if there was a hip joint infection that was there for two
7 months, there would be bony changes compatible with
8 osteomyelitis, and there were none. There is no
9 documented evidence of a hip joint infection in any of the^e
10 medical records. This is clearly supposition.

11 Q. Without going through all of the x-rays and
12 medical records, do you recall reports of a significant
13 demineralization?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What is that?

16 A. A demineralization is basically what we call
17 bone atrophy. It is loss of calcium in the bone. It is
18 seen extremely commonly in people that are bedridden,
19 people that are not ambulatory, people that are casted
20 and immobilized for a long time. It is not an unusual
21 finding.

22 Q. It is not caused by infection?

23 A. It is not always caused by infection.

24 Q. Can it be?

25 A. Can it be caused by infection? Yes, it can be.

1 Q. Isn't that another symptom of a hip infection?

2 MR. TERRY: Objection.

3 A. No, it is not a symptom of a hip infection.
4 That is a symptom of osteomyelitis of the bone not a
5 joint infection. It has nothing to do with the joint.
6 The bone has nothing to do with the joint. A hip joint
7 infection or any joint infection is within the joint. It
8 has nothing to do with the surrounding bone.

9 And there was no evidence on microscoping of
10 the femoral head there was ever any osteomyelitis. The
11 form on the addendum on the bottom of the St. Luke's
12 pathological report showed no evidence of osteomyelitis
13 present. Osteomyelitis can cause demineralization of
14 bone. -Septic arthritis doesn't commonly cause
15 demineralization of bone.

16 Q. Is it your opinion, based on these records
17 that you have reviewed from Marymount and St. Luke's,
18 there was no osteomyelitis of the femoral head?

19 A. There was no biological or pathological
20 presence of osteomyelitis. The pathologist clearly
21 stated on the review of the bony specimen there was no
22 sign of osteomyelitis.

23 Q. Is that the path report?

24 A. That is the Marymount path report. The final
25 path report from St. Luke's Hospital I am referring to.

Q. Can you find in your record when this would be?

A. There are no positive cultures from the hip joint, there were no positive cultures from the bone, and in a minute I will find the pathology report for you.

MR. TERRY: Wait until there is a question, Doctor. I think he has something specific in mind.

Q. YOU are referring to St. Luke's, is that correct?

A. That is the only time they ever -- they remove any bone other than the bone chips that were removed at the time of the first open operation. You probably have it somewhere in yours.

Q. I want to back up.

Calling your attention to what is dated November 16, 1985, this is the Marymount record.

This is a routine culture for the wound. For the record, it states "stain result, few WBC, some gram positive cocci, heavy staphylococcus aureus, rare enterococcus."

MR. TERRY: Objection. Move to have that marked and attached to the deposition, Your reading of the thing is slightly deficient.

Q. (BY MR. COTICCHIA) Do you remember seeing that

1 when you reviewed the records?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Does that not show --

4 A. It says right hip drain site.

5 Q. -- an infection?

6 A. Hip drain site. It says, "wound (and specify)"

7 and I specifically specify this is the right hip drain

8 site. This is not the incision. This is where the drain

9 comes out of the site. And it says, heavy rare

10 enterococcus. Few WBCs," This is not a wound infection.

11 This is a drainage culture.

12 Q. The drainage is coming from where? --

13 A. We don't know where the drainage is coming
14 from. It could be coming from the deep tissue. In other

15 words, a swab is taken right around this area, and you

16 have no idea how it is taken, maybe a skin contaminant-

17 Nobody really knows.

18 Q. Could it be coming from the hip?

19 A. I don't think it is coming from the hip.

20 Q. Is it possible?

21 A. To a reasonable degree of medical certainty,

22 no, in my opinion.

23 Q. We can at least agree there is a blood culture

24 Positive for infection, can't we?

25 A. It is not a blood culture. This is a drain

1 site culture. This is **not** a wound culture. This is a
2 hole that it **is** coming from, and there is persistent
3 serus drainage that somebody stuck a swab in an^d got a
4 culture from.

5 Q. Is this not checked off routine culture?

6 A. All hospitals ask you to specify that,
7 "(specify,) right hip drain site." That is what that
8 means today.

9 We agree --

10 A. That has nothing to do with the wound.

11 Q. So in your opinion, based on all the records
12 of Jeffrey Dzigiel's treatment, he did not sustain
13 osteomyelitis of the femoral head?

14 A. There is no osteomyelitis of the femoral head,
15 that's correct.

16 Q. No evidence in the records that you have
17 reviewed?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Do you agree in theory if a sub-acute
20 infection of the hip is not diagnosed and properly
21 treated, it can cause osteomyelitis of the femoral head?

22 MR. TERRY: Objection.

23 A. I think, in general, an unchecked infection of
24 a joint can do one of three things: It **can** spread into
25 the blood, it can spread into the nearby soft tissue, or

1 spread to adjacent bone. So I guess Your answer could be
2 yes, although it is not definitively yes.

3 Q. Do you agree that the surgery of the femoral
4 bone and hip socket is proper treatment for Osteomyelitis
5 of the femoral head?

6 A. I am not sure that I understand your question.
7 Are you talking about the girdlestone procedure?

8 Q. Let's say this is due to an infection rather
9 than trauma, fracture. Would the girdlestone procedure
10 be the right treatment?

11 A. Absolutely. There is no doubt in my mind
12 that Dr. Kovach, by the time Jeffrey was in the St. Luke's
13 Hospital, felt this was osteomyelitis of the bone. And
14 I think that he probably discussed this with his
15 orthopedic colleagues, and I believe he did the
16 girdlestone as a first of a two-stage procedure in which
17 to do a hip replacement on this guy.

18 This is a typical type of thing. You get the
19 infection out, you treat him aggressively with antibiotics,
20 and you go back in at a later time and do a hip
21 replacement no matter how young or how old they are.
22 That is a whole separate issue. It is a typical type of
23 thing. But the actual pathological report was that there
24 was no osteomyelitis.

25 I think they were working a presumptive

1 diagnosis that it **was** infected **after** the arthrotomy in a
2 post-op infection and not an infection that Stemmed **from**
3 a septic, from a hematogeneous spread or blood-borne
4 spread. I think that is the appropriate thing to do.
5 It looked like it **was** infected, but by the time he got to
6 St. Luke's he was on a broad number of antibiotics and
7 they had a positive culture from a blood slide. It **was**
8 -- assuming it was coming from the hip joint itself, that
9 would have been the most severe sequela of post-op, **and**
10 they -- I believe they 'treated him adequately on that.

11 My personal feeling, although it is not in
12 the records because he never -- Jeffrey never came back
13 to Dr. Kovach, was that it was the first stage of a
14 two-part procedure in which the potential infection was
15 excised in an attempt to go back at a later time to do
16 a definitive reconstruction operation. This is a typical
17 state-of-the-art approach for infections of the hip joint.

18 I believe if it was infectious, there **was**
19 never anything that said this joint was infected. If
20 it was infected, and if there was osteomyelitis, it
21 occurred after the arthrotomy, it occurred after the open
22 operation, it did not preexist the first open operation.
23 It **was** the complication of a post-op wound operation.
24 In fat people, it is unfortunately very, **very** common.
25 Nobody really knows, because there really is no evidence,

1 there **has** never been a culture from the joint itself, a
2 swab stuck directly in the hip joint or evidence in **the**
3 pathological evaluation of the bone that there **was**
4 osteomyelitis or joint infection present. It **was** assumed,
5 because of his clinical course and the way the hip joints
6 appeared to be deteriorating, but there was no
7 osteomyelitis. And I am sure it was surprising -- it was
8 surprising to note that, and I did not denote that on my
9 first report.

10 Q. Should a culture have been done?

11 A. A culture should have been done, but this **guy**
12 **was** on big-time antibiotics. They were trying to kill
13 anything they could kill. Enterococcus, which is the
14 cultural organism, if it wasn't there **would** be. No, he
15 **would** be dead. If it **was** an enterococcus, he would have
16 been dead in a week **if** it was not treated. So I wouldn't
17 expect anything to be cultured. He **was** just bombarded
18 from his arriving at St. Luke's Hospital. If I can
19 recall, he **was** on at least four or five antibiotics at
20 that time, all of them with major side effects in
21 an attempt to handle a post-op wound infection or post-op
22 infections.

23 Possibly because of the massive doses of
24 intravenous antibiotics, there was also no evidence of
25 osteomyelitis on the pathological review. The

1 antibiotics would not have killed the microorganisms in
2 the bone. They could have killed the microorganisms in
3 the soft tissues, but there would have been
4 microorganisms in the bone and there were none. It is
5 very peculiar, a real diagnostic dilemma from day one,
6 and a real challenge to all doctors involved.

7 Q. I don't know if I asked you this, but I am
8 going to ask you again. Do you agree if a sub-acute
9 infection of the hip is diagnosed during the early
10 stages, osteomyelitis of the femoral head can be
11 prevented?

12 A. I don't think you asked the question quite
13 that way. I think early detection and early treatment
14 could prevent osteomyelitis, yes, in general.

15 Q. And, of course, if it is detected and
16 prevented, then the surgical sectioning and surgery of the
17 hip and the acetabulum is not necessary?

18 A. I don't understand what you mean by
19 sectioning. What was sectioned?

20 Q. I am talking about the girdlestone.

21 A. Resectioned when it was removed?

22 Q. Yes. If you get to it soon enough, you don't
23 have to do it?

24 MR. TERRY: Objection to the form of the
25 question.

1 A. That is not necessarily true. In some
2 infections, some types of infections, you want to remove
3 it. You want to remove it as part of a two-stage
4 procedure. You want to try to cure the infection, and it
5 does, and one of the treatments of infection is
6 adjoitive **abscess** and removal of infected tissue.

7 I think they went in the second time at St.
8 Luke's with an assumption that he was infected, which is
9 why they went ahead and did the girdlestone procedure.
10 But no culture and nothing throughout of the bone-or soft
11 tissue. It **was probably** due to the massive doses of
12 antibiotics, and there was massive doses that he was
13 getting.

14 Q. At the end of your report you say that in all
15 likelihood the diagnosis of this **was** somewhat clouded by
16 the patient's large size and the inability to obtain
17 appropriate x-rays or aspirations. Are you referring to
18 Jeffrey Dzigiel's obesity?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Does Jeffrey Dzigiel have a right to receive
21 the same standard of care and treatment **as** other patients
22 have a right to receive regardless of his obesity?

23 a. I think he did. He had exactly the same
24 things that they would do for **anybody**, but it is
25 technically more difficult to interpret an X-ray when you

1 are shooting through six inches of soft tissue than
2 shooting through three inches of soft tissue.

3 Q Do you agree that Jeffrey Dzigiel now has a
4 permanent injury in his right hip?

5 A. Absolutely, but it is reversible and able to
6 be improved to a great extent by the second stage.

7 Q. Is there anything in the records that you
8 reviewed that would disclose or indicate this second
9 stage was planned by Dr. Kovach?

10 A. No, but then again there was never any real
11 follow-up from his discharge from Highland View.

12 Q. Let's go back toward the beginning of your
13 report. I want to ask you, you state that Jeffrey
14 Dzigiel was not septic, and we know that Dr. Bruck never
15 ordered a blood culture. What do you base that opinion
16 on? What basis?

17 A. People who are septic, there is no question
18 they are acutely ill. Nausea, vomiting, sky-high fever,
19 sweats, shaking, chills; these are the common signs of
20 sepsis, very high temperature elevations, 102, 103, 104,
21 persistent spiking with a very malignant type of clinical
22 course. He could not have survived if he was septic at
23 that time.

24 Q. Didn't we just agree that according to Dr.
25 Bruck's chart Jeffrey Dzigiel had a temperature of 102

1 degrees?

2 A. At one particular time' he did. Yes, he did.
3 There is no evidence at **all** there **was a** sustaining
4 temperature or he was suffering from shaking, chills.

5 Q. Is severe pain in the right thigh and hip area
6 a symptom of hip infection?

7 MR. TERRY: Objection.

8 A. Is it **a** symptom? I think people that have hip
9 joint infections **may** have severe pain but it is seen in
10 many, many other things: acute arthritis, chronic
11 arthritis, muscle tear, **muscle** rupture, inguinal hernias.
12 It is a very common symptom and **also**, certainly, with
13 fractures of the femur.

14 Q. Were you able to find anything in Dr. Bruck's
15 record of Jeffrey Dzigiel that he physically examined
16 -Jeffrey Dzigiel?

17 A. I don't know. I can't remember.

18 Q. Now, we talked about the x-ray report or
19 you mentioned the early **x-ray** report which is September
20 30, 1985. Did you ever actually see the x-ray film?

21 A. I saw **a** bunch of films. I can't remember
22 exactly if I saw that particular one.

23 Q. This would be the one that Dr. Bruck
24 ordered?

25 A. I don't remember.

1 Q. What do **you** mean medically when you take a
2 history of a patient?

3 MR. TERRY: Objection.
4
5

6 try to find **out** the who, what, where and when **of** why
7 they are there, **you try** to elicit as many **facts** about
8 them: in other words, these are subjective things. You
9 **are** asking the patient to recall certain events that
10 'happened historically.

11 Q. A history is important when a doctor is trying
12 to make a diagnosis, isn't it?

13 A. A history is important, but it also is
14 dependent upon the patient's ability to describe what
15 happened and what went **on**, and that sometimes is cloudy.
16 But, obviously, a history **is** an important aspect in
17 making **a** diagnosis.

18 Q. Isn't it a fact there is no history in
19 Dr. Bruck's records?

20 MR. TERRY: Objection. There is
21 clearly a history in the emergency room records. I am
22 not sure it **is** necessary to repeat -- doctors are not
23 permitted to review, nor are the lawyers, to review the
24 charts later. And some doctors are somewhat more
25 cryptic and may not need to write down everything but

1 can write down much about the original illness, and I
2 don't think that is a criticism.

3 Q. (BY MR. COTICCHIA) Have you ever reviewed any
4 medical records regarding treatment on behalf of a doctor
5 who is a defendant in a claim for medical malpractice?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Independent of this case?

8 A. Yes, I have.

9 Q. Do you remember the names of the cases?

10 MR. TERRY: Objection.

11 A. I don't know the names.

12 MR. TERRY: That is outside the scope
13 of this hearing.

14 A. I can easily obtain them for you.

15 Q. How many cases have you reviewed specifically
16 of medical malpractice?

17 A. I have reviewed approximately 14 cases,
18 maybe 15 cases in total. Half of them were plaintiff-
19 oriented.

20 Well, I reviewed far more potential medical
21 negligence cases where plaintiff attorneys came to me to
22 review the records and I would determine whether there
23 may be medical negligence present for them to pursue if
24 they chose to.

25 I reviewed probably 150 over the past few

1 years. But the ones I have been specifically involved
2 with have been seven as a defense expert and three or
3 four as a direct plaintiff's treating physician, and then
4 the others were basically I saw the patient but did not
5 choose to get involved with a negligence case.

6 Q. Have you ever written an opinion or given a
7 deposition as an expert witness on behalf of a patient
8 on a malpractice suit against a doctor?

9 A. Yes, I have.

10 Q. On how many occasions?.

11 A. On one case, and it was against my
12 insurance company.

13 Q. Mr. Terry is from the firm of Maynard,
14 Jacobson --

15 MR. TERRY: Jacobson, Maynard, Tuschman &
16 Kalur.

17 MR. COTTICHIA: I thought it was
18 Jacobson, Maynard, Tuschman & Kalur.

19 MR. TERRY: It still is until you
20 changed the name.

21 Q. Do you know how Mr. Terry got your name --

22 MR. TERRY: Objection.

23 A. No, I really don't.

24 Q. -- as a defense expert? Do you know any other
25 attorneys from that office?

1 A. A number of attorneys are my patients.

2 Q. From Mr. Terry's firm?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Do you know Mr. Maynard?

5 A. I know who he is. I don't know him
6 personally.

7 Q. Do you know Mr. Jacobson?

8 MR. TERRY: Objection. This is
9 ridiculous.

10 A. This is ridiculous.

11 Q. Do you know --

12 MR. TERRY: This is well outside the
13 scope of discovery. Mr. Coticchia, you know what 26-B
14 is. Limit yourself to it. I know it is tough, but try.

15 A. I don't know any principals of the law firm
16 personally. I could recognize them in a crowd, but not
17 to go up to talk to them.

18 Q. Do you know Mr. Kalur?

19 MR. TERRY: He already answered the
20 question. Quit harassing him.

21 A. I could recognize him, but I don't know him
22 at all to talk to him.

23 Q. Have you ever written reports or opinions
24 regarding medical malpractice for any of the partners?

25 MR. TERRY: Objection.

1 A. of the principal Partners? No.

2 Q. Have you ever done any review or given
3 opinions in regard to standard of care for William
4 Bonezzi?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. When was that? .

7 MR. TERRY: Objection.

8 A. Well, actually, it was -- actually I
9 haven't testified to anything yet. I had written one
10 letter which was last week that I signed today, as a
11 matter of fact.

12 Q. Do you know the name of that case?

13 MR. TERRY: Objection.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What is the name of that case?

16 MR. TERRY: It is outside discovery.
17 Find out yourself.

18 A. You are putting me in a difficult
19 position.

20 MR. TERRY: I instruct you not to
21 answer.

22 MR. COTTICHA: He can note his
23 objection. The Court can determine whether or not it is
24 relevant evidence.

25 MR. TERRY: It is not relevant to what

- 1
1 the scope of the deposition is. **You** have been practicing
2 for a nurber of years. You know the scope. Limit
3 yourself to it. Otherwise, I will shut it down and we
4 will go and find out. You have the medical opinions, you
5 **have** the basis for them. Why don't you confine yourself
6 to proper questioning?

7 Q. Do you remember the question?

8 A. Yes, I do.

9 Q. Do you remember the **case** in which you are
10 acting as an expert?

11 A. I remember the doctor's name, but not the
12 plaintiff's name.

13 Q. What was the doctor's name?

14 **MS. VANCE:** Let **me** interject for the
15 doctor here. I don't think it **is** appropriate for him to
16 be put in the position of answering your questions. It
17 really calls for a legal opinion. You are asking him
18 really as an expert, and he may not understand that in
19 relationship to the particular case, plus it may be
20 divulging a confidence of the attorney involved in the
21 case and his work product, and I don't think this witness
22 should be put in that position.

23 **MR. COTICCHIA:** I **am** not asking him to
24 **disclose** his work product. I am asking him the names
25 and attorneys he **has** written reports to.

MR. TERRY: You don't know whether they have been disclosed or not. You know full well discovery only goes to his experts who are going to be used. You don't know whether Bonezzi's report is going to be used or not. Fine. He wrote a report for Bonezzi. Move on, Mr. Coticchia.

Q. Have you ever written a report for Dale Kwarcianny?

A. Yes.

1 Q. When?

1 A. During 1977. I don't remember the dates.

1 Q. Mr. Kwarcianny is also --

1 MR. TERRY: I will stipulate that
1 Mr. Kwarcianny is a member of the firm of Jacobson --

1 Q. You know that is a medical malpractice
16 case?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Has suit been filed?

19 A. Suit has been settled or determined. It is
20 closed.

21 Q. Did that involve standards of care of
22 orthopedic treatment?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Do you remember the name of the case?

25 A. No.

1 Q Do you remember the name of the doctor?

2 A No.

3 Q Have you ever written opinions and reviewed
4 records for Morris Xirshman?

5 MR TERRY: Objection This is
6 harassment.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q (BY MR COTICXIA) When did you do that?

9 A I don't remember. 86 or '87 I don't
10 recall the exact dates

11 Q Was it again on behalf of a doctor?

12 A I assume so. But I really don't remember
13 the particulars of the case.

14 Q Have you ever reviewed any records or
15 written an opinion for Cyril McIlhargie who, for the
16 record, is no longer with the firm?

17 A I believe at one time I may have reviewed
18 records, but I don't recall

19 Q You don't remember when it was?

20 A I have no idea

21 Q Was this on behalf of a doctor who was the
22 subject of a medical malpractice claim?

23 MR MERRY: If you recall, Doctor.

24 A I really don't remember

25 Q Have you ever reviewed any records or

written an opinion for Susan Reinker?

MR. TERRY: Objection. Move to strike.

A. Have I ever reviewed any records or written an opinion? I don't remember. I have known Susan for a number of years. I may have, but I really don't remember.

Q. Have **you** written any reports or reviewed any records for Stephen Charms?

A. Stephen Charms is a patient of mine, so I sort of stay away in getting involved for him, but I did get involved in one a number of years ago.

MR. TERRY: Move to strike.

A. I think in '83 or '84 I may have reviewed something for him.

Q. Was that on-behalf of the doctor or the patient?

A. I don't remember. I don't remember the details.

Q. Do you know John Jackson?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever reviewed any records or --

MR. TERRY: Objection. How could he?

A. I don't know the name.

MR. TERRY: How could you possibly expect an intelligent answer if he doesn't know him?

1 Q. Have you written an opinion or reviewed any
2 records at the request of Andrew Buckner?

3 A. Andrew Buckner? I don't remember the name,

4 Q. Have you reviewed any records or written a
5 report at the request of Patrick Murphy?

6 A. I don't remember.

7 Q. Have you reviewed any records or written
8 a report at the request of Steven **Albert**?

9 A. I don't recall.

10 Q. Independent of this case, have you reviewed
11 any records or written any reports for Mr. Terry?

12 A. I think I did one, but I don't remember who
13 that was about or what that was about. It was a
14 couple years ago.

15 Q. So this would be the second time that you
16 have written an opinion as an expert at the request of
17 Mr. Terry?

18 A. I think so. I really don't remember.

19 Q. Do you remember the name of that case?

20 A. No. I am not even sure I did. I think I
21 did, but I don't remember.

22 Q. *do* In regard to medical malpractice cases, how
have you given?

MR. TERRY: Objection.

25 A. Three or four, I think.

A. **Three or four, I think.**

1 Q. Have you ever given any depositions as a
2 medical Expert on behalf of the plaintiff?

3 MS. VANCE: I think we have gone
4 through this.

5 A. Yes.

6 MR. TERRY: Several times.

7 MR. COTICCHIA: He said he has--been an
8 expert, and I said about depositions.

9 MS. VANCE: I think he answered that
10 question.

11 Yes, there was deposition involvi that
12 lawsuit.

13
14 of August 13, 1987, do you have any other opinions or
15 are you aware of any other facts pertaining to Jeffrey
16
17 today or that may not be in your report?

18 A. The only aspect that is not in my report
19 was after re-review of the medical records was, in
20 fact, there was no evidence of osteomyelitis in the
21 femoral head that was obtained at the time of the
22 girdlestone procedure. It would make me think there
23 still **was** a presumptive diagnosis of a-hip joint
24 infection, but there **was** never any definitive objective
25 evidence that there was, in fact, an infection in his

1 hip. That is the only way my report would have changed.

2 Q. If between now and the time of trial when
3 you testify as the expert for the Defendant, if you
4 have an additional opinion as to what you mentioned
5 now in the path report from St. Luke's, will you
6 please inform Mr. Terry so that he informs me of any
7 additional opinions or **facts** that we have not'
8 discussed here in your deposition?

9 I would be glad to.

10 MR. COTICCHIA: Can we agree to that,

11
12 MR. TERRY: I know what my duties are

13
14 MR. COTICCHIA: I am not so sure.

15 MR. TERRY: That is okay. Don't worry

16
17 MR. COTICCHIA: Okay. I don't have any

18
19 MS. VANCE: No questions on behalf of

20
21 MR. TERRY: Thank you, Doctor. You
22 understand you have the right to review the deposition
23 and sign it, or you can waive signature. I would suggest

24

25 MR. COTICCHIA: I don't have any

preference. I am going to order a copy promptly and you
may read it and sign anything you want.

THE WITNESS: I think I would like to
review it.

(Deposition concluded 6:40 p.m.)

- - -

1 I have read the foregoing transcript from
2 page 1 to page 58 and note the following
3 corrections:

4
5 PAGE: LINE: CORRECTION : REASON:

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13
14 day of Subscribed and sworn to before me this
15 , 1988.

ROBERT C. CORN, M.D.

16
17 Notary Public

18 My Commission Expires:
19
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21
22
23
24
25

1 THE STATE OF OHIO,)
2 COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA.) SS: CERTIFICATE

3 I, Lisa Hrovat, a Notary Public within and for
4 the state of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do
hereby certify that ROBERT C. CORN, M.D. was by me,
before the giving of his deposition, first duly sworn to
testify the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the
truth; that the deposition as above set forth was reduced
to writing by me by means of Stenotypy and was
10 subsequently transcribed into typewriting by means of
11 computer-aided transcription under my direction; that
12 said deposition was taken at the time and place
13 aforesaid by agreement of counsel; and that I am not a
14 relative or attorney of either party or otherwise
1 interested in the event of this action.

1 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and
1 seal of office at Cleveland, Ohio, this 8th day of
11 February, 1988.

11 Lisa Hrovat

20 Lisa Hrovat, Notary Public
Within and for the State of Ohio
23 540 Terminal Tower
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

22 My Commission Expires: January 15, 1992.
23
24
25