Condensed Transcript

CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO

Cheryl Austin, Administrator of the Estate of Sonoma Davis, deceased,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

Case No. 538701

MetroHealth Medical Center, et al.,

Defendants.

VIDEOCONFERENCED DEPOSITION OF

MICHAEL S. FIRSTENBERG, M.D.

June 28, 2005 3:00 p.m.

Kinko's 4516 Kenny Road Columbus, Ohio

Shayna M. Storts, Registered Professional Reporter



Nationwide Scheduling

Toll Free: 1.800.451.3376 Facsimile: 1.888.451.3376 www.setdepo.com

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	CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO	1	STIPULATIONS
	Cheryl Austin, Administrator of the Estate of Sonoma Davis, deceased,	2	It is stipulated by and between
		3	counsel for the respective parties herein that
	Plaintiffs,	4	this deposition of MICHAEL S. FIRSTENBERG,
	vs. Case No. 538701	5	M.D., a witness herein, called by the
	MetroHealth Medical Center, et al.,	6	Plaintiffs under the statute, may be taken at
	Defendants.	7	this time and reduced to writing in stenotypy
	$\alpha \sim \alpha < \alpha \sim $	8	by the Notary, whose notes may thereafter be
	VIDEOCONFERENCED DEPOSITION OF MICHAEL S. FIRSTENBERG, M.D.	9	transcribed out of the presence of the
	June 28, 2005	10	witness; that proof of the official character
	3:00 p.m.	11	and qualifications of the Notary is waived.
	Kinko's 4516 Kenny Road	12	and qualifications of the Notary is waived.
	Columbus, Ohio	13	·
	Shayna M. Storts, Registered Professional Reporter	1	•
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1	APPEARANCES:	1	Videoconferenced Deposition of
1 2	APPEARANCES:	1 2	
	APPEARANCES: ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFFS.	_	Videoconferenced Deposition of
2		2	Videoconferenced Deposition of Michael S. Firstenberg, M.D.
2 3	ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFFS.	2	Videoconferenced Deposition of Michael S. Firstenberg, M.D. June 28, 2005
2 3 4	ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFFS. FRIEDMAN, DOMIANO & SMITH	2 3 -	Videoconferenced Deposition of Michael S. Firstenberg, M.D. June 28, 2005 MICHAEL S. FIRSTENBERG, M.D., being
2 3 4 5	ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFFS. FRIEDMAN, DOMIANO & SMITH DONNA TAYLOR-KOLIS, ATTORNEY AT LAW	2 3 4 5	Videoconferenced Deposition of Michael S. Firstenberg, M.D. June 28, 2005 MICHAEL S. FIRSTENBERG, M.D., being by me first duly sworn, as hereinafter
2 3 4 5 6	ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFFS. FRIEDMAN, DOMIANO & SMITH DONNA TAYLOR-KOLIS, ATTORNEY AT LAW 1370 Ontario Street, 6th Floor	2 3 4 5 6	Videoconferenced Deposition of Michael S. Firstenberg, M.D. June 28, 2005 MICHAEL S. FIRSTENBERG, M.D., being by me first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified, testifies and says as follows:
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	5		7
1	to explain the process, but since it is your	1	Q. That program itself was how many
2	first deposition, I just want to secure a	2	years?
3	couple things on the record.	3	A. It's the path that I took was
4	Obviously you know that you've got	4	five clinical years with two additional
5	to answer each and every question orally;	5	research years.
6	correct?	6	Q. The research years, are those at
7	A. Correct.	7	the end? the beginning? the middle? How does
8	Q. All right. I assume that you know	8	that program run?
9	since you just rose your hand and took an	9	A. It's in the middle and it was
10	oath that you are under oath just as if you	10	between my second and third year, second and
11	were in a court of law; correct?	11	third clinical years.
12	A. Correct.	12	Q. Okay. What type of research did
13	Q. All right. Today, Doctor, do you	13	you do?
14	have any obligations that may cause us not to	14	A. I did two years working at the
15	be able to speak uninterrupted?	15	Cleveland Clinic in cardiovascular imaging, and
16	A. No.	16	ventricular or cardiovascular physiology.
17	Q. Okay. Fair enough. If for any	17	Q. Okay. So when you were on service
18	reason you wish to take a break for personal	18	at Metro on May 12th, 2003, you were
10 19	•	19	· · ·
20	reasons or to confer with your counsel, you should so indicate for the record and then	20	essentially in the home stretch of your
20		21	general surgery integrated residency program;
21	you can have a break, all right?	22	correct?
23	A. Sounds good.	23	A. Yes, that is correct.
	Q. Okay. Fair enough.	1	Q. Okay. Tell me how it is that
24	Let's talk briefly, Doctor, about	24 25	through that program that you came to be at
25	the background and training that has led you	120	Metro.
	<i>c</i>	2	â
	6		8
1	to your current position; and candidly, I	1	A. The way that the program works is
2	to your current position; and candidly, I don't know what your current position is, so	2	A. The way that the program works is you rotate through different hospitals on
	to your current position; and candidly, I don't know what your current position is, so I guess we'll start there. What are you		A. The way that the program works is you rotate through different hospitals on different rotations, each rotation has a
2 3 4	to your current position; and candidly, I don't know what your current position is, so I guess we'll start there. What are you currently doing?	2 3 4	A. The way that the program works is you rotate through different hospitals on different rotations, each rotation has a different theme to it, and the program the
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	9		11
1	resident on one of the general surgery	1	A. During my time when I was doing
2	services, and since I was on call that night	2	research I got ATLS certified so that I could
3	I was on call – the chief resident on call	3	fly with the life flight service, and that
4	in the hospital.	4	certification was good for five years and at
5	Q. All right. So you were actually	5	the end of five years I did not renew it.
5	on the general surgery service; correct?	6	Q. Can you tell me approximately what
7	A. Correct.	7	year your certification lapsed? I don't have
, B	Q. All right. Did you receive any	8	a resume in front of me, that's why I'm
9	training prior to that time in trauma	9	asking.
0	surgery?	10	A. Sure. Lunderstand. It probably
1	A. Yes, I've by that point I had	11	expired around July of 2003. I think it was
2	already completed actually four formal months	12	still active at the time, but I would have
2 3	as the chief resident of the trauma service		
		13	to go back to again my records.
4	at Metro, in addition to trauma experience as	14	Q. Okay. Prior to starting at Metro
5	a junior resident at Metro, as well as	15	starting at University Hospitals, obviously
6	participating in trauma care at some of the	16	you must have gone to med school. Can you
7	other hospitals that we rotated through, all	17	tell me where you went to medical school?
8	of which were trauma centers.	18	A. Went to Case Western Reserve
9	Q. Okay. You said that you had	19	University School of Medicine in Cleveland.
0	received four formal months in and I may	20	Q. What year did you finish?
1	be mishearing you because I'm writing	21	A. 1996.
2	A. Sure.	22	Q. Okay. All right. And did you
3	Q and not looking at you, which	23	enter that program at UH immediately following
4	is really poor practice. But four formal	24	your graduation or did you do something else?
5	months in trauma surgery; correct?	25	A. Immediately following.
	10		12
	A. I was the chief resident on the	1	Q. I think those numbers yeah, you
2	trauma service running the trauma service at	2	add seven that would make you finished in
	the time.	3	2003. Okay.
2		£	
	MS. PETRELLO: At Metro.	4	All right. Dr. Firstenberg, in
1	MS. PETRELLO: At Metro. A. At Metro.	4 5	All right. Dr. Firstenberg, in anticipation for today's deposition, what
1 5	A. At Metro.	1	anticipation for today's deposition, what
4 5 6	A. At Metro.Q. At Metro, okay. And when did that	5	anticipation for today's deposition, what material did you review?
4 5 7	 A. At Metro. Q. At Metro, okay. And when did that time period occur? 	5 6	anticipation for today's deposition, what material did you review? A. The parts of the chart that were
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	13		15
1	pages of junk.	1	chart did it refresh your recollection as to
2	Q. Right.	2	the event?
3	A. And so	3	A. Yes.
4	Q. So you don't know?	4	Q. Can you approximate for me or give
5	MS. PETRELLO: Yeah. Donna, I	5	me the markers that would indicate to me when
6	probably although I don't remember, I	6	you actually arrived in the emergency
7	probably did not send him the baby's chart.	7	department to assess the patient?
8	I probably only sent him the E.R. record and	8	A. There is a – there is a trifold
9	maybe the O.R. note. I'm not sure.	9	in the chart which is the nursing
10	MS. KOLIS: Okay.	10	documentation that indicates when I was paged
11	THE WITNESS: I do not recall	11	and when my when they documented my
12	seeing the baby's chart.	12	arrival.
13	MS. KOLIS: Okay. That's fine.	13	Q. Okay. Unfortunately, because I
14	BY MS. KOLIS:	1.4	chose to be in Cleveland, I'm not sitting
15	Q. Doctor, did you actually evaluate	15	with you.
16	and care for Cheryl Austin on the 12th in	16	MS. PETRELLO: It's the trauma
17	the emergency department or the trauma bay?	17	flow sheet, Donna.
18	A. I helped participate in her care.	18	THE WITNESS: Yeah.
19	Q. Before she went upstairs to	19	MS. PETRELLO: You know where it
20	surgery?	20	has the trauma team signatures?
21	A. I did see her before she went up	21	MS. KOLIS: That's exactly where I
22	to surgery, before she went up to O.B.	22	am. That's the page.
23	Q. Okay. Did you record notes or	23	BY MS. KOLIS:
24 25	findings from your participation in that care?	24 25	Q. So it indicates you were actually
2.5	A. The physical findings during her	2.0	paged at 1701 and arrived at 1728, perhaps?
1		1	
1 2	assessment were documented by one of the nurses in the emergency room as outlined in	1 2	A. Yes. Q. I read that as an A, but I'm not
3	the chart, which is how they do things at	3	sure.
4	Metro.	4	So that tells you approximately
5	Q. Okay.	5	when you arrived; is that a fair statement?
6	A. As well as a separate ancient	6	A. Usually that's when the nurses
7	history and physical is written by one of the	7	notice that the people are there, but I think
8	junior residents.	8	that's a reasonable statement.
9	Q. Okay. So the answer to the	9	Q. All right. At the time that you
10	question, so that I'm clear about it, and I	10	arrived in the emergency department, did you
11	think you were clear in your answer, but I	11	speak with Cheryl Austin?
12	like the record to read a certain way, is	12	A. I am sure I said hello to her, as
13	that from the time she was admitted to Metro	13	is my customary.
14	following the automobile accident but before	14	Q. Okay. I probably should ask a
15	she was taken upstairs to O.B., there is not	15	better question. Did you take an independent
16	a written note recorded by yourself; correct?	16	history from her relative to the collision
17	A. I don't believe I wrote a note in	17	and then her complaints following that event?
18	her care.	18	A. I did a brief assessment of the
19	Q. Okay. All right. Given that you	19	situation and evaluated her.
20	did not record notes yourself, or dictate a	20	Q. Okay. When you say you did a
21	summary of the events that occurred, I'm	21 22	brief assessment and evaluated the situation,
23	going if it's okay with you, I'm going to	22	please tell me what you mean by that.
24	call it "downstairs" so I don't have to quibble about whether it's E.D. or trauma.	24	A. Well, I asked her if she had any major medical problems, if she had any
25	But while she was downstairs, on reading the	24	previous surgeries, what was bothering her, if
	Dur white one was downstalls, on reading the	~ J	previous surgenes, what was bourtening fiel, it



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	17		19
1	there was something in particular that was	1	category of blunt abdominal trauma, meaning,
2	hurting. And then I did not go into I	2	you know, she had abdominal pain that we
З	did not feel the need to repeat at length	3	needed to figure out what the cause of it
4	all the things that had already been done and	4	was, and there was a full spectrum that that
5	documented, but just for my own understanding	5	consists of.
6	of what was going on getting a brief	6	Q. Okay. So your heading as you say
7	assessment as to where she was.	7	of this spectrum is blunt abdominal trauma?
8	Q. All right. I guess my question is	8	A. Yeah.
9	this and once again, I'm not going to ask	9	Q. And you were considering ruling in
10	it particularly well. It would appear from	10	or ruling out, I suppose, certain conditions
11	the charting in the record that the primary	11	that could cause or contribute to the
12	survey or initial assessment of the patient	12	bilateral lower abdominal pain; correct?
13	had, in fact, been completed	13	A. Correct.
14	A. Correct.	14	Q. Doctor, to the best to your
15	Q. – before you arrived? Would you	15	knowledge as to where you were educationally
15 16	agree with that?	16	at that point, contained under the
	-	1	•
17	A. Yes. Yes.	17	classification of blunt abdominal trauma in a
18	Q. All right. Would you say that	18	person who is six months pregnant, should a
19	from ABC standpoint that Cheryl Austin seemed	19	consideration of abrupted placenta been within
20	stable?	20	that differential also?
21	A. Yes.	21	A. Yes.
22	Q. Okay. Was there anything	22	Q. And that's something you knew
23	significantly abnormal in your survey of this	23	because you were ATLS certified, and there's
24	particular patient?	24	a chapter on blunt abdominal trauma in
25	A. Well, I did notice that she was	25	pregnancy, is there not?
	18		20
1	complaining of abdominal pain to my exam, and	1	A. I'll take your word for it, but
2	did notice that she had some variations in	2	yes.
3	her blood pressure, but not in her heart	3	Q. I think it's Chapter 11. Yeah, it
4	rate; and that she seemed to be breathing	4	would be Chapter 11.
5	quite comfortably.	5	A. Okay.
6	Q. Okay. Now, just to be clear, I	6	Q. In reviewing the chart and I'm
7	have documentation, and when you say	7	just asking things that you may or may not
8	"trifold," I don't have a trifold, I've got a	8	remember, but today is my only chance to know
9	photocopy.	9	what you do or don't remember. Do you have
10	A. I'm sure it's the same thing.	10	a recollection of Dr. Lewis indicating that
11	Q. It probably is. Because	11	he could not find the fetal heart tones?
12	immediately following this sheet or probably	12	A. I recall a concern about difficulty
		13	in getting adequate fetal heart tones.
	two or three into it where it shows the		
13	two or three into it where it shows the initial assessment it shows that the abdomen	14	Q. Did Dr. Lewis discuss that with
13 14	initial assessment it shows that the abdomen		Q. Did Dr. Lewis discuss that with
13 14 15		14 15 16	
13 14 15 16	initial assessment it shows that the abdomen was assessed at 1716 and the findings were positive bowel sounds with bilateral abdominal	15	Q. Did Dr. Lewis discuss that with you? A. He did mention it.
13	initial assessment it shows that the abdomen was assessed at 1716 and the findings were	15 16	 Q. Did Dr. Lewis discuss that with you? A. He did mention it. Q. Okay. Were you at that time or
13 <u>14</u> 15 16 17 18	initial assessment it shows that the abdomen was assessed at 1716 and the findings were positive bowel sounds with bilateral abdominal pain bilateral lower abdominal pain; correct?	15 16 17 18	 Q. Did Dr. Lewis discuss that with you? A. He did mention it. Q. Okay. Were you at that time or were you or had you been trained in the
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13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	initial assessment it shows that the abdomen was assessed at 1716 and the findings were positive bowel sounds with bilateral abdominal pain bilateral lower abdominal pain; correct? A. Correct. Q. Okay. Doctor, at the point that	15 16 17 18 19 20	 Q. Did Dr. Lewis discuss that with you? A. He did mention it. Q. Okay. Were you at that time or were you or had you been trained in the technique of obtaining fetal heart tones? A. No, we relied on the OB/GYNs for
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13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	initial assessment it shows that the abdomen was assessed at 1716 and the findings were positive bowel sounds with bilateral abdominal pain bilateral lower abdominal pain; correct? A. Correct. Q. Okay. Doctor, at the point that you did your brief second I'm going to call it a brief secondary survey, although	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	 Q. Did Dr. Lewis discuss that with you? A. He did mention it. Q. Okay. Were you at that time or were you or had you been trained in the technique of obtaining fetal heart tones? A. No, we relied on the OB/GYNs for their assessment of that. Q. Okay. Doctor, did you at any
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	21		23
1	evaluate her, excuse me.	1	reading, OB/GYN were phoned, informed of the
2	Q. Okay. Have you been made aware of	2	patient's status on arrival upon her
3	the content of the deposition testimony of	3	arrival to the trauma bay.
4	other people in this case?	4	Q. Dr. Firstenberg
5	A. No, I haven't.	5	A. So it sounded like without having
6	Q. Okay. To the best of your	6	the exact time documented, it sounds
7	recollection, since there's not a recorded	7	relatively early in her assessment.
8	note, did you, yourself, personally call O.B.	8	Q. Right. Just so that you and I
9	at any time while Cheryl was downstairs?	9	are clear, you are reading from Gregory
10	A. I think O.B. was already called	10	Lewis's discharge summary; correct?
11	according to the documentation, O.B. had	11	A. Correct.
12	already been called by the emergency room	12	Q. Or the summary note?
13	attending, Dr. Lewis.	13	A. Yes.
. 4	Q. Can you tell me based upon what	14	Q. The typed note?
15	you're calling the documentation	15	A. Correct.
L6	A. Yeah.	16	Q. And because I guarantee you that I
.7		17	
	Q each time you believe O.B. was	1	have not seen anything listed where it says
.8	called by Dr. Lewis?	18	in handwriting "placed phone call to O.B."
.9	A. Let me check here to get the	19	and that's why I was curious as to if you
20	timing.	20	had seen something I hadn't seen or if you
1	Q. Sure.	21	actually knew what time they were called?
2	A. I don't know if the documents	22	MS. PETRELLO: Wait a second,
:3	MS. PETRELLO: Donna, let me just	23	Donna.
24	clarify something. Did you did you ask	24	Do you need to get that?
5	him if he's read the depositions or if they	25	THE WITNESS: No.
	22		24
1	were discussed with him? Because I want to	1	MS. PETRELLO: Are you sure?
2	make sure that we've answered. He has not	2	THE WITNESS: Yeah.
3	read the depositions. Have you?	3	
0		i -	MS. KOLIS: That's all right.
4	THE WITNESS: No, no.	4	MS. KOLIS: That's all right. MS. PETRELLO: That was his
	THE WITNESS: No, no. MS. PETRELLO: I didn't send you	1.	÷
4		. 4	MS. PETRELLO: That was his
4 5	MS. PETRELLO: I didn't send you	4 5	MS. PETRELLO: That was his beeper.
4 5 6	MS. PETRELLO: I didn't send you any depositions.	4 5 6	MS. PETRELLO: That was his beeper. MS. KOLIS: I figured as much.
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	25		27
1	or, you know I guess that's the best way	1	sign and in a pregnant woman that a
2	to ask it, the battery of tests or the order	2	significant blood loss was occurring?
3	of evaluation for this patient, who is in	3	 A. Profound tachycardia; hypotension
4	charge, yourself or Dr. Lewis?	4	that is refractory to various maneuvers;
5	A. The technically Dr. Lewis is in	5	altered mental status; evidence of decreased
6	charge, but those decisions	6	peripheral circulation where pulse is; cold
7	Q. Because be	7	and clammy skin; diaphoresis; impaired
8	A. Because he is the attending.	8	capillary refill; obvious evidence of
9	Q. Okay.	9	hemorrhage. Those are the major things.
10	A. And for well, in the context of	10	Q. Would you agree that because of
11	Level 2 trauma patients, which she was, the	11	increased intravascular volume a pregnant
12	trauma team serves as a consulting service.	12	patient can lose a significant amount of
13	And so any decisions as to what tests should	13	blood volume before they become tachycardic,
14	or should not be performed, those are usually	14	hypotensive or experience other signs of
15	made in joint discussion between the trauma	15	hypovolemia?
16	team and the trauma team and the emergency	16	MS. PETRELLO: Donna, I'm going to
17	medicine team as represented by the emergency	17	object. No. 1, I don't know what you're
18	medicine attending.	18	reading from. I think it's unfair. He
19	Q. Okay. And you were the consultant	19	hasn't seen it; and also this is approaching
20	for the trauma team; correct?	20	expert testimony. And he's not an expert.
21	A. Correct.	21	MS. KOLIS: Well, I'm testing his
22	Q. All right. And is it, in fact	22	level of knowledge at the time that this
23	well, Dr. Gaglardi has indicated to me that	23	patient presented, and I can tell you, quite
24	he was not in attendance downstairs. Is that	24	frankly, where I'm reading from. I'm reading
25	your recollection?	25	from Chapter 11, Trauma in Women, ATLS, and
	26		28
1	A. Correct.	1	the pertinent in effect version for that
2	Q. Did you at any time while Cheryl	2	time. And I'm reading assessment and
3	was downstairs call Dr. Gaglardi for any	3	management of pregnant women with blunt
4	reason relative to this patient?	4	abdominal trauma. That's exactly what I'm
5	A. I don't remember talking to him	5	reading from.
б	while she was down there.	6	MS. PETRELLO: Okay. But we don't
7	Q. Okay. All right. In terms of	7	have it in front of us, and you're only
8	we're just going to do it this way. I'm	8	taking one sentence and, quite frankly, that's
9	going to read you some statements I think is	9	unfair to this witness. So to the extent
10	the easiest way for me to do it.	10	that
11	A. Okay.	11	MS. KOLIS: I don't know
12	Q. And see if you agree or disagree	12	MS. PETRELLO: Just wait. To the
13	in terms of what I'm saying.	13	extent, Doctor, that you can answer that
14	Going back to looking at Cheryl	14	question without seeing the entire chapter, go
15	Austin, we've already established and you've	15	ahead.
16	answered that her ABC's were stable; in other	16	A. The evaluation of pregnant women
17	words, she had a patent airway; correct?	17	can be very challenging because of, one, the
18 19	A. Correct. Q. Okay. Seemed to be adequately	18 19	reasons that you specify, the stress and
20	Q. Okay. Seemed to be adequately ventilated; correct?	20	emotional aspects; and often the pain can
20	A. Correct.	20	cloud and blunt some of those responses if there's any drugs or substances on board. As
22	Q. She had good effective circulatory	22	you can see, the entire picture can be very
23	volume, as best you could tell?	23	cloudy, and that is why as a trauma team we
24	A. Yes.	24	are obligated to use the extent of available
25	Q. Okay. Doctor, what would be a	25	resources to try to make a comprehensive
~~~	a. onay, bostor, milat modia bold	1 . ~	researces to a y to make a comprehensive



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	29		31
1	evaluation without relying on any one piece	1	26-week-old fetus.
2	or even a couple of pieces of information to	2	Q. Doctor, who was the consultant for
3	potentially make misleading decisions.	3	Sonoma Davis downstairs in the hospital?
4	Q. Okay. Thank you very much for	4	A. That would be that's the role
5	that answer.	5	of the OB/GYNs.
6	Would you agree with me that in	6	Q. Well, correct me if I'm not wrong,
7	the emergency department/trauma service that	7	there was no consultant in attendance for
8	there were, in fact, two patients there that	8	this child downstairs in the hospital;
9	day, Cheryl Austin and her child?	9	correct?
10	A. It was just Cheryl Austin. Our	10	A. Our obligation was to make sure
	obligation was to Cheryl.	11	that the mother, as is outlined in the
12	Q. Okay. You do not believe that a	12	practice of trauma, gets the best care so
13	trauma doctor has an independent responsibility	13	that she can survive to then potentially
14	to assess the fetus?	14	deliver and make sure that she does the best
15	A. That is why we get consultants	15	that she can. And then when we are
16	involved. Our focus the focus I mean,	15 16	
17	obviously those things play into our	10 17	satisfied that she does not have immediately and potentially life-threatening injuries, then
	· · · · ·	1	
18	decision-making, but our primary focus is the	18	we can shift our focus to some of the other
19	care and well-being of the mother.	19	issues, which in this particular case is her
20	Did that answer your question?	20	unborn baby.
21	Q. Well, I think that may have. I	21	Q. Whose responsibility is it to get
22	don't know that I like the answer, but	22	a consultant downstairs to evaluate fetal
23	A. Well, we are there to advocate.	23	well-being?
24	MS. PETRELLO: That's all right.	24	MS. PETRELLO: Objection. Go
25	You've answered the question.	25	ahead.
	30		32
1	THE WITNESS: Okay.	1	BY MS. KOLIS:
2	BY MS. KOLIS:	2	Q. You can answer it.
3	Q. Let's do it a different way.	3	A. I don't understand what you mean
4	Cheryl Austin is complaining of lower	4	by getting somebody downstairs. I mean,
5	abdominal pain; correct?	5	physically going I mean, we call
6	A. Correct.	6	consultants all the time. We give them the
7	Q. You've already admitted that that	7	information that is readily available. If
8	is potentially a sign of an abrupted	8	that information changes, we call them back.
9	placenta; correct?	9	And as experts in their particular areas,
10	A. Potentially.	10	they rely on that information to whether they
11	Q. Okay. So I want to know if	11	feel they need to come down right away or
12	you're saying that you have no independent	12	whether they need to wait for other issues to
13	obligation in a situation where we have the	13	resolve first. We can't physically drag
14	presentation of a pregnant woman who is	14	somebody down.
15	reported to be 26 plus weeks pregnant to	1.5	Q. Did you okay. That's a fair
16	assess the fetal well-being?	1.6	enough answer.
17	MS. PETRELLO: Objection. Asked	17	And I gather from what I have read
18	and answered. Go ahead. Go ahead. You can	18	from Dr. Lewis's discharge summary your
19	tell her again.	19	recollection and his own testimony, which you
20	A. Our obligation is to the well-being	20	haven't seen, is that at least two phone
21	of the mother and to advocate for her	21	calls were placed to O.B., but they advised
22	survival, so to speak, and well-being. And	22	that you should just continue with your
23	that is why we get consultants involved who	23	evaluation, and when you were done that you
24	serve as advocates for other factors that	24	could have her come upstairs; correct?
25	involved; in this particular case, her	25	A. I believe that's what's documented,
1		1 - ~	



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	33		35
1	correct.	1	MS, PETRELLO: And right below
2	Q. Okay. In your training as a	2	that it says, "Fetal ultrasound per Dr.
3	trauma surgeon, and I'm going to limit it to	3	Werner," that's what he's looking at.
4	that I take it you have no OB/GYN	4	MS. KOLIS: Right. My question
5	training. We'll start with that; correct?	5	is: There's no findings from that, and I
6	A. Correct. I mean in the scope of	6	can't find any fetal ultrasound findings in
7	our general surgical training there is no	7	the chart. That's why I'm asking.
8	formal OB/GYN experience.	8	MS. PETRELLO: Oh, you mean the
9	Q. Okay. In your medical training	9	results? I'm not sure maybe ask your
10	and experience, whichever rotations it was,	10	question again, because I think we're both
11	what was your belief as to what you would be	11	confused.
12	looking for in order to recognize a possible	12	MS. KOLIS: Right. Right.
13	placental abruption?	13	BY MS. KOLIS:
14	A. Vaginal bleeding would be a concern	14	Q. Well, I'm confused because of the
15	that there may be something going on;	15	chart, so let me ask it this way: Did you
16	obviously severe abdominal pain will place	16	see someone perform a bedside fetal
17	abruption as somewhere in an extremely long	17	ultrasound?
18	differential; and the very fact that she was	18	A. An ultrasound according to the
19	pregnant would, in my opinion, mandate getting	19	documentation I do not
20	the OB/GYNs involved for just doing what they	20	MS. PETRELLO: She's asking if you
20	do best, and that is assessing a pregnancy.	21	saw it.
22		22	THE WITNESS: Yeah.
23	-	1	
	ultrasound performed in the emergency	23	BY MS. KOLIS:
24 25	department?	24 25	Q. Yeah, just asking if you saw it.
20	A. I did not perform one, but it	23	A. I don't remember specifically
-	34		36
1	looks like from the documentation that I	1	seeing it. I'm not denying what the
2	think before I arrived they tried to get	2	documentation says, I just don't remember
3	heart tones.	3	seeing it.
4	Q. Okay. By ultrasound?	4	Q. Okay. And would you agree with me that in the note that constitutes the
5	A. They yes, yes. And according	5	Inat in the note that constitutes the
		1	
6	to the documentation it looks like that was	6	emergency department and trauma department
7	done after I had arrived, that they tried	7	emergency department and trauma department downstairs assessment, there aren't any notes
7 8	done after I had arrived, that they tried getting heart tones.	7	emergency department and trauma department downstairs assessment, there aren't any notes that indicate what the fetal ultrasound
7 8 9	done after I had arrived, that they tried getting heart tones. Q. Can you tell me where in the	7 8 9	emergency department and trauma department downstairs assessment, there aren't any notes that indicate what the fetal ultrasound revealed
7 8 9 10	done after I had arrived, that they tried getting heart tones. Q. Can you tell me where in the documentation you are looking?	7 8 9 10	emergency department and trauma department downstairs assessment, there aren't any notes that indicate what the fetal ultrasound revealed A. Correct.
7 8 9 10 11	<ul> <li>done after I had arrived, that they tried getting heart tones.</li> <li>Q. Can you tell me where in the documentation you are looking?</li> <li>A. That is the again, the trauma</li> </ul>	7 8 9 10 11	emergency department and trauma department downstairs assessment, there aren't any notes that indicate what the fetal ultrasound revealed A. Correct. Q if it occurred; right?
7 8 9 10 11 12	<ul> <li>done after I had arrived, that they tried getting heart tones.</li> <li>Q. Can you tell me where in the documentation you are looking?</li> <li>A. That is the again, the trauma flow sheet. It's the same page that we</li> </ul>	7 8 9 10 11 12	emergency department and trauma department downstairs assessment, there aren't any notes that indicate what the fetal ultrasound revealed A. Correct. Q if it occurred; right? Who is Dr. Werner?
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7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	<ul> <li>done after I had arrived, that they tried getting heart tones.</li> <li>Q. Can you tell me where in the documentation you are looking?</li> <li>A. That is the again, the trauma flow sheet. It's the same page that we referred to earlier that documents my arrival to the emergency department the trauma bay, excuse me.</li> <li>Q. I take it you're referring to line 3 which says, "The bedside ultrasound shows fetus"</li> </ul>	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	<ul> <li>emergency department and trauma department downstairs assessment, there aren't any notes that indicate what the fetal ultrasound revealed</li> <li>A. Correct.</li> <li>Q if it occurred; right? Who is Dr. Werner?</li> <li>A. I believe she was one of the emergency medicine residents at the time.</li> <li>Q. Can emergency medicine residents perform fetal ultrasound?</li> <li>A. I don't know if that's within the scope of their practice at the level of their</li> </ul>
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7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	<ul> <li>done after I had arrived, that they tried getting heart tones.</li> <li>Q. Can you tell me where in the documentation you are looking?</li> <li>A. That is the again, the trauma flow sheet. It's the same page that we referred to earlier that documents my arrival to the emergency department the trauma bay, excuse me.</li> <li>Q. I take it you're referring to line 3 which says, "The bedside ultrasound shows fetus" MS. PETRELLO: No. Donna, you know the page that has the trauma team</li> </ul>	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	<ul> <li>emergency department and trauma department downstairs assessment, there aren't any notes that indicate what the fetal ultrasound revealed</li> <li>A. Correct.</li> <li>Q if it occurred; right? Who is Dr. Werner?</li> <li>A. I believe she was one of the emergency medicine residents at the time.</li> <li>Q. Can emergency medicine residents perform fetal ultrasound?</li> <li>A. I don't know if that's within the scope of their practice at the level of their training, whether that is something that they are adequately trained for.</li> </ul>
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	<ul> <li>done after I had arrived, that they tried getting heart tones.</li> <li>Q. Can you tell me where in the documentation you are looking?</li> <li>A. That is the again, the trauma flow sheet. It's the same page that we referred to earlier that documents my arrival to the emergency department the trauma bay, excuse me.</li> <li>Q. I take it you're referring to line 3 which says, "The bedside ultrasound shows fetus" MS. PETRELLO: No. Donna, you know the page that has the trauma team signatures?</li> </ul>	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	<ul> <li>emergency department and trauma department downstairs assessment, there aren't any notes that indicate what the fetal ultrasound revealed</li> <li>A. Correct.</li> <li>Q if it occurred; right? Who is Dr. Werner?</li> <li>A. I believe she was one of the emergency medicine residents at the time.</li> <li>Q. Can emergency medicine residents perform fetal ultrasound?</li> <li>A. I don't know if that's within the scope of their practice at the level of their training, whether that is something that they are adequately trained for.</li> <li>Q. Okay. And you, yourself, don't do</li> </ul>
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	<ul> <li>done after I had arrived, that they tried getting heart tones.</li> <li>Q. Can you tell me where in the documentation you are looking?</li> <li>A. That is the again, the trauma flow sheet. It's the same page that we referred to earlier that documents my arrival to the emergency department the trauma bay, excuse me.</li> <li>Q. I take it you're referring to line 3 which says, "The bedside ultrasound shows fetus" MS. PETRELLO: No. Donna, you know the page that has the trauma team signatures?</li> <li>MS. KOLIS: Right.</li> </ul>	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	<ul> <li>emergency department and trauma department downstairs assessment, there aren't any notes that indicate what the fetal ultrasound revealed</li> <li>A. Correct.</li> <li>Q if it occurred; right? Who is Dr. Werner?</li> <li>A. I believe she was one of the emergency medicine residents at the time.</li> <li>Q. Can emergency medicine residents perform fetal ultrasound?</li> <li>A. I don't know if that's within the scope of their practice at the level of their training, whether that is something that they are adequately trained for.</li> <li>Q. Okay. And you, yourself, don't do fetal ultrasound; correct?</li> </ul>
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7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	<ul> <li>done after I had arrived, that they tried getting heart tones.</li> <li>Q. Can you tell me where in the documentation you are looking?</li> <li>A. That is the again, the trauma flow sheet. It's the same page that we referred to earlier that documents my arrival to the emergency department the trauma bay, excuse me.</li> <li>Q. I take it you're referring to line 3 which says, "The bedside ultrasound shows fetus" MS. PETRELLO: No. Donna, you know the page that has the trauma team signatures?</li> <li>MS. KOLIS: Right.</li> </ul>	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	<ul> <li>emergency department and trauma department downstairs assessment, there aren't any notes that indicate what the fetal ultrasound revealed</li> <li>A. Correct.</li> <li>Q if it occurred; right? Who is Dr. Werner?</li> <li>A. I believe she was one of the emergency medicine residents at the time.</li> <li>Q. Can emergency medicine residents perform fetal ultrasound?</li> <li>A. I don't know if that's within the scope of their practice at the level of their training, whether that is something that they are adequately trained for.</li> <li>Q. Okay. And you, yourself, don't do fetal ultrasound; correct?</li> </ul>

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	37		39
1	about a little bit earlier. You had a broad	1	the trigeminy?
2	general diagnosis of blunt abdominal trauma?	2	A. Yes.
3	A. Yes.	3	Q. Okay. What were you attributing
4	Q. Based upon her presentation of	4	that to?
5	pain; correct?	5	A. There was some concern that she
6	A. Correct.	6	may have sustained a cardiac contusion as
7	Q. What did you think should happen	7	part of her injury.
8	to evaluate that finding?	8	Q. Okay. After 1605 would you agree
9	A. She needed a CAT scan of her	9	with me there is no documentation as to her
10	abdomen and pelvis.	10	basic vitals; blood pressure, pulse,
11	Q. Okay. And was that your decision	11	respiratory rate, anything of that nature?
12	or did you discuss it with Dr. Lewis? What	12	MS. PETRELLO: I think it's 1805.
13	did you two do?	13	l think you said 16
14	A. We jointly discussed it and we	14	MS. KOLIS: I didn't mean to say
15	agreed that that should be what should be	15	that. It was 6:05 or 1805, whichever you
16	the step taken.	16	want to make it.
17	Q. Okay. Doctor, in the charting it	17	A. I don't think that I have seen any
18	says, "Care assumed by trauma transport team	18	from that time on.
19	at 1805," on the same page, that same trauma	19	Q. Okay. In reviewing the CAT scan
20	flow sheet.	20	results, if you did and have you had an
21	A. Yes.	21	opportunity to review those?
22	Q. Okay. My understanding from the	22	A. Yes.
23		23	
	deposition of someone else is that the trauma	Į.	Q. Okay. Based upon the information
24	someone from the trauma team, specifically	24	contained in that document and the deposition
25	Dr. Fulop and a nurse, would have taken	25	testimony of another witness, it would appear
	38		40
1	Cheryl to the CAT scan; correct? You didn't	1	that they got her in there and they didn't
2	take her; right?	2	encounter any difficulty in doing the CAT
3	A. I did not take her.	3	scan. Would you agree with that?
4	Q. You don't recall being in the CT	4	A. It sounded like a pretty
5	room with the technician watching the film as	5	straightforward exam.
6	it ran by; correct?	6	Q. And you have had patients who have
7	A. I don't remember them showing up	7	had CTs at Metro prior to Cheryl; correct?
8	on the monitor, correct.	8	A. Correct.
9	Q. Okay. All right. Do you have a	9	Q. All right. Would you say that an
10	recollection if it was busy in the E.D. that	10	assessment that it takes approximately for a
11	day?	11	abdominal and pelvic CT to be performed is
12	A. It seemed busy, but it didn't seem	12	about maybe 20 minutes?
13	disproportionately busy or out of control, so	13	A. All told, probably a little bit
14	to speak, from times that I remember at	14	longer, maybe, you know, by the time you
15	Metro.	15	bring the patient over if they have had, you
16	Q. Okay. In terms of nursing	16	know, contrast, if they have had problems
17	documentation, which I'm sure you may have	17	with IVs. I mean, that time can be
18	had an opportunity to review, it seems that	18	extremely variable.
19	Cheryl Austin was being monitored for blood	19	Q. Okay.
	pressure, pulse, respiratory rate, temperature	20	A. But the actual time to do the
20	and nuine as from 1712 through 1905. Do you	21	procedure is probably only about 15, 20
	and pulse ox from 1713 through 1805. Do you		· · · ·
21	know have you seen that page?	22	minutes.
21 22		22 23	
20 21 22 23 24	know have you seen that page?	1	



	41		43
1	A. I went to go review the CAT scan	1	with Cheryl Austin again before you saw her
2	results myself with the radiologist.	2	in surgery upstairs?
3	Q. When did you do that?	з	A. After I went over the CAT scan
4	A. She was still down in the	4	results and looked at the CAT scan I went to
5	emergency department at the time, so the	5	go back and to see how she was doing, to see
6	exact time I don't recall, but it was in	6	how she felt, felt her belly again, and told
7	that time window that she was still in the	7	her that we were going to be getting her up
8	emergency department.	8	to O.B. to be assessed.
9	Q. So Dr. Fulop didn't come back and	9	Q. Okay. And when you saw her,
10	tell you what was seen on CT. Did you get	10	Doctor, do you remember it being that she was
11	a phone call for you to come look at the	11	in a hallway at that point?
12	film or you just wanted to see it?	12	A. She was the way that the
13	A. It's been my practice to try to go	13	emergency room at Metro was well, was set
14	over the scans myself as much as I could.	14	up, because they have since redecorated, is
15	Q. Okay. But sitting here today, you	15	that there was the central nursing station,
16	don't actually know what time that occurred;	16	and if you can imagine sort of an H type
17	correct? Do you know	17	configuration, she was in one of the prongs
18	A. The exact time I don't know other	18	of the H right in front of the nursing
19	than she was still in the emergency	19	station. If we had a map I could probably
20	department at the time. So I mean, I can	20	identify it, but she was essentially in front
21	narrow it down to, what is that, about a	21	of the nursing station.
22	half hour, 45-minute window. But it had been	22	Q. Okay. And she was not being
23	after the scans had been printed out and	23	monitored at that point; correct?
24	before she had gone upstairs. So probably	24	A. To be honest with you, I don't
25	within like I said, probably within about	25	remember if she had had a portable monitor on
	42	1	44
		0	
1	somewhere in that 20-minute window.	1	her or not. But
2	Q. Okay. And based upon if you	2	Q. If she was being
3	know, based upon what you saw on the CAT	3	A. I don't know.
4	scan, what was your impression of the problem	4	Q. There are no recorded findings
5	or problems that Cheryl was having?	5	after 1805; correct?
6	A. When I reviewed the scans with the	6	A. From what I've seen in the
7	radiologist I remember we had noticed that	7	documentation, I haven't seen anything
8	her major solid organs all appeared to be	8	indicating that she was.
9	intact, particularly the spleen, the liver,	9	Q. All right. And then you
.10	some of the lower cuts of the lung; that,	10	MS. PETRELLO: Hang on a second.
11	however, we did appreciate some fluid in the	11	Do you need to get those?
12	abdomen, but particularly in the context of	12	THE WITNESS: No, no. Yeah.
13	somebody who is 26 weeks pregnant I remember	13	They know I'm not at the hospital. Yeah.
1.4	there being some discussion as to what the	14	That's fine.
15 16	significance of that was as we typically	15	MS. PETRELLO: Because that makes
17	don't get routine CAT scans in a patient at that point in their	16 17	the third time it went off.
18	Q. Pregnancy; right?	18	(Brief interruption.)
19	A pregnancies, yeah.	19	BY MS. KOLIS: Q. Did you then go tell Dr. Lewis
20	Q. Okay. Did you actually after	20	what you saw on the CAT scan?
21	you reviewed the findings with the	20	A. I believe discussing with him that
22	radiologist, did you have a recollection of	22	there was some fluid in the abdomen.
1	1001009105 did 300 have a reconcolicit of	22	
23		23	O Okay Because the charting
23 24	speaking with Cheryl Austin again?	23	Q. Okay. Because the charting reflects it's not you, but it is at 7:10, or
23 24 25		23 24 25	Q. Okay. Because the charting reflects it's not you, but it is at 7:10, or however you want to call it, the time Dr.



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	45		47
1	Lewis is recorded as saying she can go to	1 .	probably as I was not responsible at that
2	O.B.; correct?	2	point for her ongoing care, it was more
3	A. Yes.	3	just more trying to just comfort her and
4	Q. All right. How soon after Cheryl	4	reassure her.
5	was transferred up to O.B. were you alerted	5	Q. Reassure her that what?
6	to the fact that you might have to attend a	6	A. That she was doing well and
7	surgery?	7	that
8	A. They called us back probably about	8	Q. Oh.
9	probably about 10 to 15 minutes or so	9	A from our evaluation that we
10	after she had arrived up there.	10	were happy with how she was doing.
11	Q. Okay. As you sit here today, in	11	Q. Doctor, do you know how long it
12	recalling the events, did anyone on the O.B.	12	takes from the time of an abruption to when
13	team ask you why she didn't come up earlier?	13	a baby will become hypoxic, or is there a
14	A. No, I don't recall that.	14	time frame?
15	Q. At the time that you attended	15	MS. PETRELLO: Objection. If you
16	Cheryl Austin for this what I call the trauma	16	know.
17	part of the surgery or the consultation, were	17	A. I don't know the exact time. It
18	you aware of the fact you became aware	18	would be speculation.
19	that she had had an abrupted placenta;	19	Q. Okay. Other than Cheryl Austin,
20	correct?	20	at any time prior to that date, and I don't
21	A. Not while she was not at any	21	care about anything that's happened to you
22	point that she had gone up to L and D. I	22	after that date, have you ever been involved
23	don't think I understand the question, but	23	in a situation where you were evaluating a
24	Q. Right. I didn't ask it well.	24	patient in an emergency department potentially
25	You became aware once you got to	25	for a placental abruption?
	46		48
1	the surgery that there had been an abrupted	1	A. In the scope of a trauma or
2	placenta; correct?	2	overall?
3	A. Correct.	3	Q. Yes. No. First of all, just in
4	Q. Okay. And did you inquire about	4	the context of a trauma.
5	the condition of the child?	5	
		1 0	A. Well, as we discussed previously.
6		1	A. Well, as we discussed previously, complications of pregnancy such as that always
6 7	A. Yes.	6	complications of pregnancy such as that always
7	<ul><li>A. Yes.</li><li>Q. And what did you find out?</li></ul>	6 7	complications of pregnancy such as that always need to be included in the differential when
7 8	<ul><li>A. Yes.</li><li>Q. And what did you find out?</li><li>A. That the Apgar scores were</li></ul>	6 7 8	complications of pregnancy such as that always need to be included in the differential when you're evaluating any trauma patient as either
7 8 9	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And what did you find out?</li> <li>A. That the Apgar scores were</li> <li>suboptimal and that they were going to be</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9	complications of pregnancy such as that always need to be included in the differential when you're evaluating any trauma patient as either a cause of their trauma or as a secondary
7 8 9 10	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And what did you find out?</li> <li>A. That the Apgar scores were suboptimal and that they were going to be taking the child off to the neonatal</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10	complications of pregnancy such as that always need to be included in the differential when you're evaluating any trauma patient as either a cause of their trauma or as a secondary factor to it.
7 8 9 10 11	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And what did you find out?</li> <li>A. That the Apgar scores were suboptimal and that they were going to be taking the child off to the neonatal intensive care unit.</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11	complications of pregnancy such as that always need to be included in the differential when you're evaluating any trauma patient as either a cause of their trauma or as a secondary factor to it. Q. Once again, bad question on my
7 8 9 10 11 12	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And what did you find out?</li> <li>A. That the Apgar scores were suboptimal and that they were going to be taking the child off to the neonatal intensive care unit.</li> <li>Q. After the surgery did you write</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	complications of pregnancy such as that always need to be included in the differential when you're evaluating any trauma patient as either a cause of their trauma or as a secondary factor to it. Q. Once again, bad question on my part. I'm asking you if you ever previously
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7 9 10 11 12 13 14	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And what did you find out?</li> <li>A. That the Apgar scores were suboptimal and that they were going to be taking the child off to the neonatal intensive care unit.</li> <li>Q. After the surgery did you write any notes in the progress notes?</li> <li>A. I probably wrote a progress note,</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	complications of pregnancy such as that always need to be included in the differential when you're evaluating any trauma patient as either a cause of their trauma or as a secondary factor to it. Q. Once again, bad question on my part. I'm asking you if you ever previously participated in, and I think you probably answered it, but it's the way I asked the
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And what did you find out?</li> <li>A. That the Apgar scores were suboptimal and that they were going to be taking the child off to the neonatal intensive care unit.</li> <li>Q. After the surgery did you write any notes in the progress notes?</li> <li>A. I probably wrote a progress note, and I know I dictated an operative note, as</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	complications of pregnancy such as that always need to be included in the differential when you're evaluating any trauma patient as either a cause of their trauma or as a secondary factor to it. Q. Once again, bad question on my part. I'm asking you if you ever previously participated in, and I think you probably answered it, but it's the way I asked the question if prior to the time you had the
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And what did you find out?</li> <li>A. That the Apgar scores were suboptimal and that they were going to be taking the child off to the neonatal intensive care unit.</li> <li>Q. After the surgery did you write any notes in the progress notes?</li> <li>A. I probably wrote a progress note, and I know I dictated an operative note, as well as writing her a postoperative orders</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	complications of pregnancy such as that always need to be included in the differential when you're evaluating any trauma patient as either a cause of their trauma or as a secondary factor to it. Q. Once again, bad question on my part. I'm asking you if you ever previously participated in, and I think you probably answered it, but it's the way I asked the question if prior to the time you had the opportunity to be involved in the care of
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And what did you find out?</li> <li>A. That the Apgar scores were suboptimal and that they were going to be taking the child off to the neonatal intensive care unit.</li> <li>Q. After the surgery did you write any notes in the progress notes?</li> <li>A. I probably wrote a progress note, and I know I dictated an operative note, as well as writing her a postoperative orders and admission to the ICU.</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	complications of pregnancy such as that always need to be included in the differential when you're evaluating any trauma patient as either a cause of their trauma or as a secondary factor to it. Q. Once again, bad question on my part. I'm asking you if you ever previously participated in, and I think you probably answered it, but it's the way I asked the question if prior to the time you had the opportunity to be involved in the care of Cheryl Austin, do you recall another occasion
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And what did you find out?</li> <li>A. That the Apgar scores were suboptimal and that they were going to be taking the child off to the neonatal intensive care unit.</li> <li>Q. After the surgery did you write any notes in the progress notes?</li> <li>A. I probably wrote a progress note, and I know I dictated an operative note, as well as writing her a postoperative orders and admission to the ICU.</li> <li>Q. Okay. Did you talk with Cheryl</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	complications of pregnancy such as that always need to be included in the differential when you're evaluating any trauma patient as either a cause of their trauma or as a secondary factor to it. Q. Once again, bad question on my part. I'm asking you if you ever previously participated in, and I think you probably answered it, but it's the way I asked the question if prior to the time you had the opportunity to be involved in the care of Cheryl Austin, do you recall another occasion where you would have been evaluating somebody
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And what did you find out?</li> <li>A. That the Apgar scores were suboptimal and that they were going to be taking the child off to the neonatal intensive care unit.</li> <li>Q. After the surgery did you write any notes in the progress notes?</li> <li>A. I probably wrote a progress note, and I know I dictated an operative note, as well as writing her a postoperative orders and admission to the ICU.</li> <li>Q. Okay. Did you talk with Cheryl after the surgery?</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	complications of pregnancy such as that always need to be included in the differential when you're evaluating any trauma patient as either a cause of their trauma or as a secondary factor to it. Q. Once again, bad question on my part. I'm asking you if you ever previously participated in, and I think you probably answered it, but it's the way I asked the question if prior to the time you had the opportunity to be involved in the care of Cheryl Austin, do you recall another occasion where you would have been evaluating somebody for the same potential placental abruption?
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And what did you find out?</li> <li>A. That the Apgar scores were suboptimal and that they were going to be taking the child off to the neonatal intensive care unit.</li> <li>Q. After the surgery did you write any notes in the progress notes?</li> <li>A. I probably wrote a progress note, and I know I dictated an operative note, as well as writing her a postoperative orders and admission to the ICU.</li> <li>Q. Okay. Did you talk with Cheryl after the surgery?</li> <li>A. I talked to her once she arose</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	complications of pregnancy such as that always need to be included in the differential when you're evaluating any trauma patient as either a cause of their trauma or as a secondary factor to it. Q. Once again, bad question on my part. I'm asking you if you ever previously participated in, and I think you probably answered it, but it's the way I asked the question if prior to the time you had the opportunity to be involved in the care of Cheryl Austin, do you recall another occasion where you would have been evaluating somebody for the same potential placental abruption? MS. PETRELLO: Do you understand
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And what did you find out?</li> <li>A. That the Apgar scores were suboptimal and that they were going to be taking the child off to the neonatal intensive care unit.</li> <li>Q. After the surgery did you write any notes in the progress notes?</li> <li>A. I probably wrote a progress note, and I know I dictated an operative note, as well as writing her a postoperative orders and admission to the ICU.</li> <li>Q. Okay. Did you talk with Cheryl after the surgery?</li> <li>A. I talked to her once she arose from anesthesia; I talked to her in the ICU</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	complications of pregnancy such as that always need to be included in the differential when you're evaluating any trauma patient as either a cause of their trauma or as a secondary factor to it. Q. Once again, bad question on my part. I'm asking you if you ever previously participated in, and I think you probably answered it, but it's the way I asked the question if prior to the time you had the opportunity to be involved in the care of Cheryl Austin, do you recall another occasion where you would have been evaluating somebody for the same potential placental abruption? MS. PETRELLO: Do you understand her question? You seem a little confused.
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And what did you find out?</li> <li>A. That the Apgar scores were suboptimal and that they were going to be taking the child off to the neonatal intensive care unit.</li> <li>Q. After the surgery did you write any notes in the progress notes?</li> <li>A. I probably wrote a progress note, and I know I dictated an operative note, as well as writing her a postoperative orders and admission to the ICU.</li> <li>Q. Okay. Did you talk with Cheryl after the surgery?</li> <li>A. I talked to her once she arose from anesthesia; I talked to her in the ICU the following morning.</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	complications of pregnancy such as that always need to be included in the differential when you're evaluating any trauma patient as either a cause of their trauma or as a secondary factor to it. Q. Once again, bad question on my part. I'm asking you if you ever previously participated in, and I think you probably answered it, but it's the way I asked the question if prior to the time you had the opportunity to be involved in the care of Cheryl Austin, do you recall another occasion where you would have been evaluating somebody for the same potential placental abruption? MS. PETRELLO: Do you understand her question? You seem a little confused. THE WITNESS: I'm still a little
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And what did you find out?</li> <li>A. That the Apgar scores were suboptimal and that they were going to be taking the child off to the neonatal intensive care unit.</li> <li>Q. After the surgery did you write any notes in the progress notes?</li> <li>A. I probably wrote a progress note, and I know I dictated an operative note, as well as writing her a postoperative orders and admission to the ICU.</li> <li>Q. Okay. Did you talk with Cheryl after the surgery?</li> <li>A. I talked to her once she arose from anesthesia; I talked to her in the ICU</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	complications of pregnancy such as that always need to be included in the differential when you're evaluating any trauma patient as either a cause of their trauma or as a secondary factor to it. Q. Once again, bad question on my part. I'm asking you if you ever previously participated in, and I think you probably answered it, but it's the way I asked the question if prior to the time you had the opportunity to be involved in the care of Cheryl Austin, do you recall another occasion where you would have been evaluating somebody for the same potential placental abruption? MS. PETRELLO: Do you understand her question? You seem a little confused.



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	49	la ven a l'an d'a de la s	51
1	or not you were involved in a pregnant trauma	1	the cause, to actual problems with the fetus.
2	patient.	2	Q. Okay. Of the two possibilities
3	MS. KOLIS: Right.	3	that you suggested, poor application of
4	THE WITNESS: Who abrupted?	4	technology and actual problems with the fetus,
5	MS. KOLIS: Yes, more simply	5	which one is more dangerous to the fetus?
6	asked.	6	MS. PETRELLO: Wait. I don't
7	MS. PETRELLO: But I think his	7	think he listed just two. I think he said
8	confusion is the abruption part. I mean,	8	there's a spectrum and that went from this to
9	because that's what you said. You're talking	9	that. So he didn't just say there were two
10	- and I'm not trying to ask your question	10	things.
11	for you, Donna, but you're talking about	11	BY MS. KOLIS:
12	abdominal pain in a trauma pregnant patient;	12	Q. Well, in your spectrum, if you
13	true?	13	can't obtain fetal heart tones and the
14	MS. KOLIS: Right. Exactly.	14	possibility exists as a reason that you can't
15	MS. PETRELLO; Okay. So were you	15	
	· · ·	16	is actually a problem with the fetus, isn't
16	did you	17	that the most dangerous situation of all of
17	THE WITNESS: I have prior to		those in the spectrum?
18	that point I had evaluated pregnant trauma	18	MS. PETRELLO: Objection.
19	patients before. Does that answer your	19	BY MS. KOLIS:
20	question?	20	Q. I mean, it's a pretty simple
21	BY MS. KOLIS:	21	question.
22	Q. Yes, it does.	22	MS. PETRELLO: No, it's not,
23	Had any of them have lower	23	Donna. There are so many assumptions in
24	abdominal pain as one of their presenting	24	there.
25	symptoms?	25	If you can answer that, go ahead.
	50		52
1	A. Yes.		l mean, you're talking about a make-believe
1 2	A. Yes. Q. Okay.	2	
	A. Yes.	t	l mean, you're talking about a make-believe
2	A. Yes. Q. Okay.	2	l mean, you're talking about a make-believe patient, so
2 3	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. Okay.</li> <li>A. They probably all do.</li> <li>Q. Is it your recollection oh, okay. I see what you're saying.</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5	I mean, you're talking about a make-believe patient, so BY MS. KOLIS: Q. Well, this is not exactly a make-believe patient, but I'm just saying that
2 3 4	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. Okay.</li> <li>A. They probably all do.</li> <li>Q. Is it your recollection oh,</li> <li>okay. I see what you're saying. In those instances, do you recall</li> </ul>	2 3 4	l mean, you're talking about a make-believe patient, so BY MS. KOLIS: Q. Well, this is not exactly a
2 3 4 5	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. Okay.</li> <li>A. They probably all do.</li> <li>Q. Is it your recollection oh, okay. I see what you're saying.</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5	I mean, you're talking about a make-believe patient, so BY MS. KOLIS: Q. Well, this is not exactly a make-believe patient, but I'm just saying that
2 3 4 5 6	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. Okay.</li> <li>A. They probably all do.</li> <li>Q. Is it your recollection oh,</li> <li>okay. I see what you're saying. In those instances, do you recall</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6	I mean, you're talking about a make-believe patient, so BY MS. KOLIS: Q. Well, this is not exactly a make-believe patient, but I'm just saying that when a doctor is considering what the reason
2 3 4 5 6 7	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. Okay.</li> <li>A. They probably all do.</li> <li>Q. Is it your recollection oh,</li> <li>okay. I see what you're saying. In those instances, do you recall</li> <li>O.B. coming downstairs to evaluate the</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7	I mean, you're talking about a make-believe patient, so BY MS. KOLIS: Q. Well, this is not exactly a make-believe patient, but I'm just saying that when a doctor is considering what the reason is that they can't obtain fetal heart tones,
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. Okay.</li> <li>A. They probably all do.</li> <li>Q. Is it your recollection oh,</li> <li>okay. I see what you're saying. In those instances, do you recall</li> <li>O.B. coming downstairs to evaluate the patient?</li> <li>A. Depending on the circumstances,</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	I mean, you're talking about a make-believe patient, so BY MS. KOLIS: Q. Well, this is not exactly a make-believe patient, but I'm just saying that when a doctor is considering what the reason is that they can't obtain fetal heart tones, the most dangerous one would be a problem with the fetus?
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	53		55
1	THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.	1	CAPTION
2	MS. PETRELLO: You have the right	2	The Deposition of Michael S.
3	to read or waive signature. He's going to	3	Firstenberg, M.D., taken in the matter, on
4	read.	4	the date, and at the time and place set out
5	MS. KOLIS: And we'll do it 30	5	on the title page hereof.
6	days, Colleen, okay?	6	It was requested that the deposition
7	MS. PETRELLO: Yeah.	7	be taken by the reporter and that same be
8	(Signature not waived.)	8	reduced to typewritten form.
9	And, thereupon, the deposition was	9	It was agreed by and between counsel
10	concluded at approximately 3:52 p.m.	10	and the parties that the Deponent will read
11	concluded at approximately 5.52 p.m.	11	
12		12	and sign the transcript of said deposition.
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23	•	23	
24	•	24	
25	***	25	
	54		56
1	CERTIFICATE	1	
2	State of Ohio:	2	CERTIFICATE
З	SS:	3	STATE OF :
4	County of Franklin:	4	COUNTY/CITY OF :
5	I, Shayna M. Storts, Notary Public in and for the		
6	, onayna mi otoria, notary r abno mana na ano	5	Before me, this day, personally
0	State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, certify that	5 6	Before me, this day, personally appeared, Michael S. Firstenberg, M.D., who,
ь 7			appeared, Michael S. Firstenberg, M.D., who,
	State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, certify that	6	appeared, Michael S. Firstenberg, M.D., who, being duly sworn, states that the foregoing
7	State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, certify that the within named MICHAEL S. FIRSTENBERG, M.D., was by me duly	6 7	appeared, Michael S. Firstenberg, M.D., who, being duly sworn, states that the foregoing transcript of his/her Deposition, taken in
7 8 9	State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, certify that the within named MICHAEL S. FIRSTENBERG, M.D., was by me duly sworn to testify to the whole truth in the cause aforesaid;	6 7 8	appeared, Michael S. Firstenberg, M.D., who, being duly sworn, states that the foregoing transcript of his/her Deposition, taken in the matter, on the date, and at the time and
7 8 9 10	State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, certify that the within named MICHAEL S. FIRSTENBERG, M.D., was by me duly sworn to testify to the whole truth in the cause aforesaid; that the testimony was taken down by me in stenotypy in the	6 7 8 9	appeared, Michael S. Firstenberg, M.D., who, being duly sworn, states that the foregoing transcript of his/her Deposition, taken in the matter, on the date, and at the time and place set out on the title page hereof,
7 8 9 10 11	State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, certify that the within named MICHAEL S. FIRSTENBERG, M.D., was by me duly sworn to testify to the whole truth in the cause aforesaid; that the testimony was taken down by me in stenotypy in the presence of said witness, afterwards transcribed upon a	6 7 8 9 10	appeared, Michael S. Firstenberg, M.D., who, being duly sworn, states that the foregoing transcript of his/her Deposition, taken in the matter, on the date, and at the time and place set out on the title page hereof, constitutes a true and accurate transcript of
7 8 9 10 11 12	State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, certify that the within named MICHAEL S. FIRSTENBERG, M.D., was by me duly sworn to testify to the whole truth in the cause aforesaid; that the testimony was taken down by me in stenctypy in the presence of said witness, afterwards transcribed upon a computer, that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript	6 7 9 10 11 12	appeared, Michael S. Firstenberg, M.D., who, being duly sworn, states that the foregoing transcript of his/her Deposition, taken in the matter, on the date, and at the time and place set out on the title page hereof,
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, certify that the within named MICHAEL S. FIRSTENBERG, M.D., was by me duly sworn to testify to the whole truth in the cause aforesaid; that the testimony was taken down by me in stenotypy in the presence of said witness, afterwards transcribed upon a computer; that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony given by said witness taken at the time and	6 7 9 10 11 12 13	appeared, Michael S. Firstenberg, M.D., who, being duly sworn, states that the foregoing transcript of his/her Deposition, taken in the matter, on the date, and at the time and place set out on the title page hereof, constitutes a true and accurate transcript of said deposition.
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1.		1 Reason for change:
2		2 Page No. Line No. Change to:
3	DEPOSITION ERRATA SHEET	
4.		3
5 RE:	SetDepo, Inc.	4 Reason for change:
6 File No	. 6597	5 Page No. Line No. Change to:
7 Case (	aption: Cheryl Austin vs. MetroHeal	th
8	Medical Center, et al.	6
9		7 Reason for change:
10 Depon	ent: Michael S. Firstenberg, M.D.	8.
11 Depos	tion Date: June 28, 2005	
12 .		9.
13 To the	Reporter:	10 SIGNATURE:DATE:
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