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IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO

- - - - -

CHERYL AUSTIN, ADMX,	:	
ESTATE OF SONOMA DAVIS,	:	
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
vs.	:	CAUSE NO. 538,701
	:	
METRO HEALTH MEDICAL CENTER,	:	
ET AL.,	:	
	:	
Defendants.	:	
	:	

- - - - -

DEPONENT: JAMES M. GREENBERG, M.D.

OCTOBER 10, 2005

8:45 A.M.

REPORTED BY:
Heidi L. Constable, RPR, RMR

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO

CHERYL AUSTIN, ADMX, :
ESTATE OF SONOMA DAVIS, :
Plaintiff, :
vs. : CASE NO. 538,701
METRO HEALTH MEDICAL CENTER, :
ET AL., :
Defendants. :

Deposition of JAMES M. GREENBERG, M.D., a
witness herein, taken by the Plaintiff as upon
cross-examination pursuant to agreement of counsel
and stipulations hereinafter set forth, at the
offices of Kinko's, 51 East Fifth Street, Cincinnati,
Ohio at 8:45 a.m., on Monday, October 10, 2005,
before Heidi L. Constable, RPR, RMR, a Notary Public
within and for the State of Ohio.

Cin-Tel Corporation
813 Broadway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
(513) 621-7723

1 APPEARANCES:

2 On behalf of the Plaintiff

3 (via teleconference)

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5 Friedman, Domiano & Smith Co., LPA

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9 (216) 621-0070

10 On behalf of the Defendants

11 COLLEEN H. PETRELLO, ESQ.

12 Sutter, O'Connell, Mannion & Farchione

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15 Cleveland, Ohio 44114

16 (216) 928-4533

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It is stipulated by and between counsel for the respective parties that the deposition of JAMES M. GREENBERG, M.D., a witness herein, may be taken at this time by the Plaintiff as upon cross-examination, pursuant to the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure and pursuant to agreement of counsel; deposition may be taken in stenotypy by the Notary Public and court reporter and transcribed by her out of the presence of the witness; that the deposition is to be submitted to the witness for his examination and signature; and that signature is not waived.

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WITNESS

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JAMES M. GREENBERG, M.D.

By Ms. Kolis. 6

EXHIBITS

(NO EXHIBITS WERE MARKED)

1 JAMES M. GREENBERG, M.D.,
2 of lawful age, as having been duly sworn, was
3 examined and testified as follows:

4 CROSS-EXAMINATION

5 BY MS. KOLIS:

6 Q. Doctor, for the record could you
7 please state your name and your professional address.

8 A. Certainly. James M. Greenberg. My
9 professional address is Cincinnati Children's
10 Hospital Medical Center, 3333 Burnet Avenue,
11 B-U-R-N-E-T, Cincinnati, Ohio 45229.

12 Q. Okay. Doctor, for identification
13 purposes, for the record my name is Donna Kolis, I am
14 the attorney that has been retained to represent the
15 Estate of Sonoma Davis. Today my purpose in taking
16 your deposition is to discover the opinions as much
17 as possible that you hold that you'll be rendering at
18 the trial of that lawsuit and the factual medical
19 bases for the same.

20 We have agreed, that being myself and
21 Ms. Petrello to do this deposition by video
22 conferencing. As you are probably aware from your
23 own personal experience there are on occasions
24 technical difficulties with this kind of proceeding.

1 For instance, I now have completely lost the view of
2 yourself or Ms. Petrello. Did you guys move -- was
3 there any movement of your monitor?

4 MS. PETRELLO: Let's go off the
5 record.

6 (Discussion off the record)

7 BY MS. KOLIS:

8 Q. Okay. I think we're good now.
9 Doctor, the other complications besides visuals that
10 can occur is there's sometimes a slight time delay
11 between a question being completed and you being able
12 to hear it, so I'd ask that you, to the best of our
13 abilities, attempt not to speak over one another so
14 that the court reporter can accurately take down the
15 full and complete questions as well as, of course,
16 more importantly, your full and complete answers.
17 Can I secure that agreement from you?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. All right. We're going to go
20 through the typical administrative housekeeping part
21 of the deposition first. Doctor, it's my
22 understanding from depositions which you've given
23 pretty recently that your current hourly charge is
24 \$300; is that correct?

1 A. Yes, it is.

2 Q. Okay. You will, of course, at the
3 conclusion of today's deposition prepare a bill for
4 the time that I've spent with you, forward it to Ms.
5 Petrello, and I'll make certain that it is paid in a
6 timely manner. Doctor, when were you initially
7 contacted in this case?

8 A. I believe it was in the spring of
9 2004, but I'd have to look at my notes to be certain.

10 Q. Okay. And, like I said, the next easy
11 part, prior to you entering the room, Ms. Petrello
12 kindly gave me a brief inventory of what is being
13 represented to be your file. I understand that you
14 didn't bring all of the medical records, although
15 they would be available. However, along those lines,
16 do you keep a correspondence file?

17 A. I keep it with the regular file that I
18 maintain for the case. I have that right here in
19 front of me.

20 Q. Great. With reference to your
21 correspondence file, does that refresh your
22 recollection as to when you were initially contacted?

23 A. The first letter I have is dated
24 January 10, 2004.

1 Q. Okay. And by whom were you contacted,
2 Doctor?

3 A. By Ms. Petrello.

4 Q. Okay. Doctor, may I inquire, had you
5 ever had an opportunity to work with Colleen Petrello
6 or any of the attorneys at Sutter, O'Connell, Mannion
7 & Farchione prior to that occasion?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay. My understanding from reading
10 other testimony that you have offered is that in the
11 past three years you have exclusively testified for
12 physicians. Is my understanding correct?

13 A. I have once testified at a deposition
14 for the defense. I can't tell you right now whether
15 that was more than three years ago or not. It was
16 within the last three or four years.

17 Q. Doctor, I may have misheard or you may
18 have misspoke. Did you mean to indicate to me that
19 you testified once for a patient, and I believe that
20 patient by testimony was in Connecticut?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Not once for the defense, once for a
23 patient, correct?

24 A. Correct. I'm sorry. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. Well, it's pretty early in the
2 morning so we're allowed to misspeak. All right.
3 And initially, Doctor, what information were you
4 provided with regarding this case?

5 A. I was provided with maternal records
6 of Cheryl Austin as well as infant records of Sonoma
7 Davis.

8 Q. All right. At that time -- was those
9 the only materials that you were given at that time?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. I'm not going to ask you to
12 read all of your correspondence, could you read at
13 least into the record that preliminary piece of
14 correspondence.

15 A. Do you want to hear the whole letter
16 or just the records?

17 Q. The whole letter, if you don't mind.

18 A. Okay. Dear Dr. Greenberg, Thank you
19 for agreeing to review the above-captioned matter
20 on behalf of our client, Metro Health Medical Center.
21 For your review I have enclosed a copy of the
22 following medical record/maternal records: One,
23 Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services 12/17/02
24 to 5/5/03. Two, Cuyahoga County EMS 5/12/03. Three,

1 Metro Health Medical Center admission 5/12/03 to
2 5/18/03. And four, Metro Health Medical Center EPIC
3 records 5/12/03 to 6/2/03. Infant records: One,
4 Metro Health Medical Center admission 5/12/03 to
5 7/1/03. And two, University Hospitals of Cleveland
6 one through five.

7 MS. PETRELLO: Those are volumes.

8 A. Yeah. Please review the materials
9 provided and contact me directly of (216) 928-4533 to
10 discuss your thoughts and opinions.

11 Q. All right. To the best of your
12 recollection, and I'm asking it that way -- and let
13 me withdraw it. My understanding, Doctor, is that in
14 your evaluation of medical/legal cases that you do
15 not have a custom or habit of taking notes; is that
16 correct?

17 A. That is correct.

18 Q. So when I ask you questions, that's
19 going to be from whatever you remember; is that
20 correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. Did you have a conversation
23 with Ms. Petrello or anyone else associated with her
24 office or Metro Health prior to that letter generally

1 orienting you to the facts of the case?

2 A. I do not recall. I imagine that I
3 did, but I don't recall the content of that
4 conversation.

5 Q. Okay. All right. Subsequent to the
6 time -- well, let me withdraw that. I don't --
7 you're indicating that this initial correspondence
8 with Ms. Petrello occurred on January 10, 2004.
9 Following your analysis of the records that you
10 indicated, did you draft a preliminary report that
11 you sent to Ms. Petrello relative to your opinions in
12 this matter?

13 A. I drafted a report after reviewing
14 those records as well as some additional records.
15 The list of the records is outlined in my report.

16 Q. Okay. I understand that you authored
17 a report on May 16th, and we'll get to that, and all
18 I want to know is prior to the May 16th report 2005,
19 did you author any other reports?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Okay. Can I assume, Doctor, that
22 although you did not author another report prior to
23 May 16, 2005, that you would have communicated your
24 preliminary impressions to Ms. Petrello or someone

1 else not too far after January 10, 2004?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. Can you recall today what your
4 preliminary impressions regarding this matter were?

5 A. My recollection is that my preliminary
6 impressions were similar to those outlined in my
7 report. I don't know if you want more detail than
8 that.

9 Q. I actually do, if you have more
10 detail. Okay. You're saying you had similar
11 opinions, was there information that had not yet been
12 provided to you that you felt you needed to draw the
13 conclusions which you are going to testify to in this
14 case?

15 A. I don't recall needing any additional
16 information other than those medical records.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I did receive additional information
19 after that time. That additional information did not
20 substantively change my opinions.

21 Q. All right. And any additional
22 information that you would have received, Doctor, can
23 I assume that is, first of all, deposition testimony?

24 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. And whose depositions do you
2 recall reading?

3 A. I'd have to look at my report for the
4 specific list, if that's all right.

5 Q. Doctor, this isn't a memory contest.
6 Anytime you need to refer to your charts or the
7 records, that's fine.

8 A. It will take me a moment to find my
9 report. It's in here somewhere. Okay. Deposition
10 of Greg Lewis -- no, yes. By the time I had written
11 my report I had reviewed the deposition of Greg
12 Lewis, deposition of Kimberly R. McKanders, autopsy
13 record of Sonoma Davis, expert's report prepared by
14 Dr. John Barks, and expert's report prepared by Dr.
15 Mark Perlman.

16 Q. Okay. Subsequent to writing the
17 report have you received additional depositions
18 and/or reports?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And can you outline those for me?

21 A. Yes. It will be just a moment to get
22 them organized here.

23 Q. No problem.

24 A. A report prepared by Dr. James

1 Hinsdale, a report prepared by Dr. George Huggins, a
2 report prepared by Dr. Stephen Devoe, a report
3 prepared by Dr. Floyd Giles, a report prepared by Dr.
4 Kathleen Clem, and depositions of Mr. Norman Davis,
5 Ms. Cheryl Austin, and Dr. Michael Firstenberg.

6 Q. Okay. Doctor, although I do know that
7 you do not take notes relative to your analysis of
8 material, do you highlight depositions as you read
9 them?

10 A. I do not.

11 Q. Okay.

12 MS. PETRELLO: Donna, do you --

13 Q. Do you tab pages?

14 A. No.

15 MS. PETRELLO: Donna, just one second.

16 MS. KOLIS: Yes.

17 MS. PETRELLO: He also last night had
18 Barks' depo, just so that you know.

19 MS. KOLIS: Okay. Don't hit the table
20 again because I lost the doctor again.

21 (Brief recess)

22 BY MS. KOLIS:

23 Q. If I have taken good notes, the last
24 place we were before we had a little technical

1 interruption was discussing additional information,
2 and I last learned that last night Dr. Greenberg was
3 able to or did receive the deposition of Dr. John
4 Barks. Is that where we left off?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. Great. Doctor, have you seen
7 any of the films in this case, the ultrasound films
8 specifically?

9 A. No. I've only seen the reports.

10 Q. Okay. Do you believe, Doctor, that
11 you need to see the films to draw any conclusions in
12 this matter?

13 A. No, I do not.

14 Q. Okay. Doctor, from reviewing your
15 curriculum vitae and other materials available to me
16 on the internet, it would appear that your specialty
17 is neonatology, correct?

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. All right. And to make sure that we
20 don't take a long time today, I'm not going to go
21 through your educational background, although it is
22 interesting, but suffice it to say you are a Board
23 certified physician, correct?

24 A. Yes, I am.

1 Q. You're Board certified in?
2 A. Neonatology.
3 Q. Pediatrics -- go ahead.
4 A. Neonatology and perinatal medicine.
5 Q. Okay. You received that Board
6 certification in what year?
7 A. Oh, boy.
8 MS. PETRELLO: Here's your CV. I'm
9 just handing him his CV.
10 A. I think it's 1989, but I honestly
11 don't remember. It's been a while and I've
12 recertified twice, the most recently last year.
13 Q. All right. Doctor, you are licensed
14 to practice medicine in the State of Ohio, correct?
15 A. Yes, I am.
16 Q. Do you have an inactive status on any
17 license in any other state?
18 A. Yes, I do, in Minnesota.
19 Q. Okay.
20 A. And just to clarify, I recertified
21 last in neonatology and perinatal medicine in 2003.
22 Time flies.
23 Q. Okay. And currently at Cincinnati
24 Children's Hospital, first of all, that is the only

1 place you practice medicine; is that correct?

2 A. That's not correct. I actually
3 practice medicine at several other hospitals in
4 Cincinnati.

5 Q. Are those -- okay. Then I did
6 misunderstand. I thought that you spent virtually
7 all of your time at Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

8 A. No. It's a bit confusing. The
9 division of neonatology provides neonatal care for
10 infants at nine other hospitals besides Cincinnati
11 Children's. We are all Cincinnati Children's
12 employed and privileged and credentialed through
13 Cincinnati Children's as well as those other
14 hospitals. The bulk of my neonatal intensive care
15 time is spent at Cincinnati Children's, but I also
16 see patients at several other hospitals. I'm happy
17 to list those for you, if you need them.

18 Q. As it regards the time that you spend
19 at other hospitals, which we're just going to briefly
20 get into this, are you -- you're providing neonatal
21 care services there --

22 A. Yes, I am.

23 Q. -- at the other hospitals, correct?

24 A. Yes.

1 Q. I note that you have some research
2 interests, but essentially my understanding is that,
3 in fact, you spend at least 75 percent of your time
4 in the clinical practice of medicine; is that an
5 accurate statement?

6 A. Yes, it is.

7 Q. Okay. Doctor, in reviewing your
8 curriculum vitae I did not discern that there were
9 any particular articles that you have authored that
10 directly dealt with the issues in this case. Do you
11 agree with that statement?

12 A. I have authored an article since the
13 time that this CV was prepared about prematurity. I
14 don't think it's on this CV. Let me just look.

15 Q. The CV I have is dated 5/27/05. That
16 may be a print date. I don't know if it's the edit
17 date or not.

18 A. It's the print date and there is one
19 new article that's now been published regarding
20 prematurity. It was a very brief four-paragraph
21 review of an article on prematurity that appeared in
22 the Journal of Pediatrics 50 years ago, and I wrote a
23 short review about that article for the Journal of
24 Pediatrics, and my review was published in July, I

1 believe.

2 Q. July of 2005?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. If I understood what you were
5 saying, because I'm writing and trying to listen at
6 the same time, the article that you just published in
7 the Journal of Pediatrics in July of 2005 is a
8 four-paragraph review of an article written 50 years
9 ago?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. It's --

13 Q. Is it -- go ahead.

14 A. It's for a series that appears in the
15 Journal of Pediatrics Entitled 50 Years Ago In The
16 Journal.

17 Q. Oh, okay. And did you update it and
18 say how things have changed? What was the essence of
19 this article on prematurity that you wrote?

20 A. The essence was as you described, an
21 update about what's changed and what hasn't changed
22 in the -- regarding premature -- prematurity and
23 premature infants over the past 50 years.

24 Q. Did that article in any way address

1 the improvements in morbidity and mortality for
2 premature births in the past five decades?

3 A. It alluded to improvements. It was a
4 very short article.

5 Q. Okay. All right. Getting a little
6 bit closer to what you are probably anxious to talk
7 to, I have read your report, Doctor, and I would like
8 to, first of all, ask you, have you been asked to
9 render opinions relative to the standards of care of
10 any of the physicians involved in this case?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. What physicians' conduct will
13 you be addressing?

14 A. I'll be specifically addressing the
15 conduct of the neonatologists and the conduct of the
16 obstetricians, and on a limited basis the conduct of
17 the emergency room physicians.

18 Q. All right. Let's go through each of
19 those for a second. Doctor, do you have reason to
20 believe, based upon the reports that you have read
21 that were submitted by my experts, that we ever had
22 any criticisms about the neonatologists at Metro
23 Health Medical Center?

24 A. I don't perceive any criticisms of the

1 neonatologists.

2 Q. Okay. I want to make sure you didn't
3 think that I had -- I will state for the record that
4 this is not a basis of our criticism of Metro Health.
5 What do you perceive to be the basis of our criticism
6 against the obstetrical department at Metro Health?

7 A. My perception is that your concerns or
8 your clients' concerns relate to the timing of
9 delivery.

10 Q. Okay. Doctor, do you agree with me
11 that once Cheryl Austin arrived at the obstetrical
12 unit at Metro Health she was quickly and
13 appropriately delivered?

14 A. Yes, I believe she was delivered in a
15 timely fashion.

16 Q. Okay. So given that you and I both
17 now know that I don't have any criticisms with what
18 occurred on the floor, what is your understanding
19 about my criticisms relative to obstetrics prior to
20 that time?

21 A. My understanding is that the
22 criticisms or your criticisms relate to the
23 timeliness of delivery, that delivery should have
24 occurred sooner.

1 Q. Okay. All right. And that's fair.
2 Doctor, in what manner do you feel qualified to
3 testify on behalf of the obstetrical department at
4 Metro relative to the timing of delivery?

5 A. As a neonatologist I work directly
6 with obstetricians and maternal fetal medicine
7 specialists to determine or ascertain appropriate
8 timing for delivery.

9 Q. All right. Let me -- this is -- I
10 don't mean for the question to be esoteric, but just
11 in terms of establishing the foundation, and perhaps
12 it will help the jury in this trial, I gather,
13 Doctor, that when you tell me that you help assist
14 the obstetricians relative to the timing of the
15 delivery, that is because as a neonatologist perhaps
16 you're in a better position to assess fetal
17 well-being than an obstetrician is?

18 A. In general I would agree with what
19 you've said. I think I'm in a different position to
20 assess fetal well-being. My perspective is from that
21 of the fetus. However, I'm obviously very aware of
22 the maternal issues that the obstetrician has to deal
23 with as well.

24 Q. Do you consider yourself to be the

1 patient advocate for the fetus when you're called in
2 that kind of circumstance?

3 A. That's one way of putting it, yes.

4 Q. Okay. Is there another way of putting
5 it?

6 A. Well, I'm not -- I'm not advocating
7 solely for the fetus. I'm very aware of the fact
8 that the fetus is connected to the mother and that
9 the fetus' well-being is directly connected, if you
10 will, with the mother's well-being, but in that
11 context I'm focusing on the status of the fetus and
12 assisting the obstetrician regarding timing of
13 delivery with respect to my perspective.

14 Q. Timing of delivery, when you use that
15 phrase, does that include, Doctor, the decision to
16 deliver an operative delivery in a situation where
17 you feel that a fetus is at risk or -- go ahead.

18 A. No, I don't ever make a decision about
19 delivery, either operative or vaginal delivery. My
20 role is that of an advisor to the obstetrician and
21 sometimes to the family as well.

22 Q. Okay. Thank you very much for that
23 answer. And you said to a limited basis you would be
24 addressing standards of care issues for emergency

1 room doctors; is that correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. Can I ask, Doctor, at
4 Cincinnati Children's Hospital and the associated
5 other hospitals where you provide services, are you
6 on occasion called to the emergency room to be an
7 advisor in the situation of the arrival of a pregnant
8 woman?

9 A. Yes. It occurs very infrequently, but
10 I have been asked to participate in those
11 evaluations.

12 Q. Okay. And the reason I ask that, the
13 next question is going to be, from your own
14 perspective can you explain to me why you feel that
15 you are qualified to render standard of care opinions
16 relative to the conduct of the emergency room
17 physicians?

18 A. Only in my activities in the emergency
19 room. In other words, when I'm called to the
20 emergency room it is usually because a delivery is
21 imminent or felt to be imminent and there -- they
22 want me to be present because there may be a baby
23 that requires resuscitation.

24 MS. PETRELLO: And, Donna, just so

1 that you're clear, we have -- we're not going
2 to be asking him whether or not anybody --
3 any of the emergency room physicians, whether
4 their care comported with the standard of
5 care. We have other experts for that, so
6 that's clearly not something that we're going
7 to be addressing with Dr. Greenberg.

8 Q. Okay. I wanted to be certain about
9 that because, Doctor, I'm sort of testifying on the
10 record, but I'm seeking clarification. A fair number
11 of depositions were taken of Metro Health employees,
12 and as I reviewed your report it struck me that the
13 two depositions of Metro Health Medical Center
14 employees that you were given were that of Dr. Greg
15 Lewis, who is an emergency room physician, and Dr.
16 McKanders, who is an obstetrician, so that's why I
17 wanted to see if I had missed something.

18 But going back to where you were, if I
19 understand your testimony, and I would accept it to
20 be at face value, there are situations where people
21 arrive at Cincinnati Children's Hospital where other
22 physicians in the emergency room make the
23 determination that delivery may be imminent and a
24 baby may be in trouble and they do call for your input

1 and possible resuscitation; am I stating that fairly?

2 MS. PETRELLO: Objection. Go ahead.

3 A. Yes, with the emphasis on potential

4 for resuscitation.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. That's why they want me there.

7 Q. Okay. I'm glad to limit it to that.

8 If they don't call you down to the emergency room in

9 a advisory capacity relative to someone's

10 presentation for delivery, that's fine. Because I

11 would assume since you are a highly-skilled

12 neonatologist they would want you there for

13 resuscitation, so I can accept that. All right. You

14 are, of course, going to be offering opinions on

15 causation relative to the cause of Sonoma Davis's

16 death; is that correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. Let's make this sort of

19 general, first of all, is Cincinnati Children's

20 Hospital considered a level one trauma center?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. Given that it's a level one

23 trauma center, Doctor, do you participate in, I'm

24 going to call them action plans? That may not be a

1 word that you're familiar with, but the formulation
2 of plans as to how to manage a maternal fetal trauma
3 in your emergency room department.

4 A. No.

5 Q. Are you aware of the committee at your
6 hospital that does perform that action plan?

7 A. I'm only aware of the committee in a
8 very general sense. And one point I should make for
9 clarification, Cincinnati children's being a
10 Children's Hospital rarely, rarely has pregnant girls
11 or women admitted or coming through the emergency
12 room even, so it would be a very unusual
13 circumstance.

14 Q. All right. And that's part of the
15 question I'm asking. You are a level one trauma
16 center for children, but on occasion, at least this
17 must be partially the basis why you were asked to be
18 an expert, you must see pregnant women in the
19 emergency room; is that a fair statement?

20 A. Actually not at Cincinnati Children's,
21 but at some of those other hospitals that I cover I
22 will on occasion see pregnant women in the emergency
23 department.

24 Q. Can you -- you know, I didn't afford

1 you the opportunity to tell me what those other
2 facilities were, but now that it's become germane,
3 could you indicate for me what facilities it is where
4 you have privileges that you do see pregnant women in
5 the emergency room.

6 A. Over the past ten years the hospitals
7 include Bethesda North Hospital, Mercy Fairfield
8 Hospital, Mercy Anderson Hospital, Mercy Franciscan
9 Mount Airy Hospital, and Fort Hamilton Hospital. I
10 do see patients at other hospitals in Cincinnati,
11 including University Hospital and the Christ
12 Hospital, but I don't recall ever being in the
13 emergency department at those two hospitals.

14 Q. Okay. Thank you very much for that
15 answer. Of the hospitals that you listed, are any of
16 those considered a level one trauma center?

17 A. I do not know.

18 Q. Without looking at your curriculum
19 vitae, which would make it easy, but I'm not doing
20 it, are you certified in advanced trauma life
21 support?

22 A. No, I'm not.

23 Q. Are you certified in ACLS, advanced
24 cardiac life support?

1 A. No.

2 Q. All right. Doctor, would you agree
3 with me that Sonoma Davis was born on, I always get
4 it wrong, May 12, 2003 because there was a placental
5 abruption?

6 A. Yes, I think that's likely to be the
7 reason she delivered.

8 Q. Doctor, this is my fault once again
9 for not being there in person and being a little more
10 organized, I'm going to ask -- any questions that I
11 ask you today of a medical nature, I'm going to be
12 asking you those questions to a reasonable degree of
13 medical probability. I'm assuming you understand
14 what that means, more likely than not.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Is that your understanding? That way
17 I won't have to keep asking you is this opinion to a
18 reasonable degree of medical probability, which gets
19 rather redundant. Would you agree with me, Doctor,
20 from a totality of the medical information that is
21 available to us, both through the Metro Health
22 medical records and those at Rainbow Babies and
23 Children and then, unfortunately, the post-mortem
24 report of University Hospitals of Cleveland, that but

1 for the abruption that occurred on May 12, 2003 we
2 would have no reason to believe that this pregnancy
3 would not have continued in a normal fashion?

4 A. Based on the information that I have I
5 would have expected this pregnancy to continue. I do
6 note that Ms. Austin had two other pre-term infants
7 which puts her at a somewhat higher risk of having
8 another premature infant, but I have no reason to
9 believe that she would not have been able to carry
10 the pregnancy for many weeks following.

11 Q. All right. And just to carry it to
12 its logical conclusion so we don't have issues at
13 trial that we should be dealing with, there was no
14 evidence whatsoever in the chart of any congenital
15 abnormalities, would you agree with that?

16 A. I understand the infant had a cleft
17 palate. Other than that there were no congenital
18 abnormalities.

19 Q. And I do stand corrected, I should
20 have said no congenital abnormalities that would have
21 been life-threatening or had with them a high
22 potential for mortality.

23 A. Yes, I agree with that.

24 Q. Okay. Doctor, from your review of the

1 medical charts at Metro Health Medical Center for May
2 12, 2003, can you give me your best assessment of how
3 much time Cheryl Austin spent in the emergency
4 department before she arrived at labor and delivery?
5 A. I'd have to look at the record to be
6 precise.
7 Q. You may do so. It's okay.
8 A. Is it this one?
9 MS. PETRELLO: No.
10 A. This one. I'm looking to see when she
11 arrived. I know it was sometime after five. It
12 looks like she arrives at 5:00 p.m. approximately.
13 It looks like 1701 here or 1710. It's either 1701 or
14 1710. On the trauma flow sheet there are two
15 different times, and I'm looking -- this is where I
16 believe when she -- this is delivery room three.
17 Sorry. I'm just looking here.
18 Q. It's okay.
19 A. It appears to me that she arrives in
20 OB at 1927.
21 Q. Having arrived somewhere around 1710;
22 is that right?
23 A. Arrived in the emergency room at 1710
24 and in the obstetrics area at 1927, so about two

1 hours and 15 minutes.

2 Q. And delivered at what time?

3 A. 1948.

4 Q. Okay. So that you and I are clear

5 then, from time of arrival at ED to time of delivery

6 is approximately two hours and 30 minutes, 38

7 minutes, about two and a half hours?

8 A. I'm sorry, you said the time of

9 delivery?

10 Q. Yes. Yeah. Time of delivery.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Just you and I speaking, if you don't

13 mind, we can call it two hours and 30 minutes for

14 purposes of our medical/legal conversation today.

15 A. That's fine.

16 Q. Doctor, can you please indicate for me

17 the condition of Sonoma Davis, the child, between

18 1710 and 1927?

19 A. You mean 1710?

20 Q. Exactly. We'll stick with one

21 nomenclature, I will say 1710 and 1927, can you tell

22 me from the records what the condition of this baby

23 was?

24 A. It's very difficult to tell.

1 Q. Okay. Tell me in simple medical terms
2 why it's difficult for you as a neonatologist to tell
3 what the condition of this child was between 1710 and
4 1927.

5 A. There's very little monitoring
6 information, and actually very little intermittent
7 auscultation as well.

8 Q. Suffice it so say, Doctor, you're
9 recognizing that because there isn't monitoring that
10 which you have to testify today to is going to be
11 based upon working a timeline backwards based upon
12 information available at the time of birth, would you
13 agree with that?

14 A. I would agree and add that it was from
15 the time of birth and beyond the infant's hospital
16 course as well.

17 Q. Okay. This question is not in order,
18 but I'm going to ask it anyway, Doctor, do you agree
19 that Sonoma Davis ultimately died because she had no
20 gag reflex?

21 A. No, I don't think that was the sole
22 cause of death.

23 Q. All right. Having said that, let me
24 break it out a little bit differently then, obviously

1 we'll go back and talk about the day of May 12th and
2 a few days afterwards, do you agree since the way I
3 heard your answer that the fact that Sonoma Davis did
4 not have a gag reflex was a contributing cause to her
5 death?

6 A. Yes, it contributed to her death.

7 Q. Okay. And in what way did it
8 contribute to her death?

9 A. It caused her to have chronic
10 aspiration.

11 Q. Which ultimately then caused her to
12 experience what?

13 A. Pneumonia, aspiration pneumonia.

14 Q. Getting, I guess, right to the heart
15 of the issue, Doctor, to a reasonable degree of
16 medical probability, based upon your specialty, what
17 caused this child not to have a gag reflex?

18 A. Her obstructive hydrocephalus and
19 periventricular leukomalacia.

20 Q. The cause of that PVL was an anoxic
21 incident prior to birth?

22 A. We don't understand what causes PVL.
23 I have many patients, unfortunately, who have PVL for
24 whom we can never identify an anoxic incident, so

1 it's difficult for me to arrive at that conclusion.
2 I certainly wouldn't reach that conclusion to a
3 degree of reasonable certainty.

4 Q. Do you agree that this child had an
5 anoxic event which occurred at or about the time of
6 birth?

7 A. The infant had evidence of metabolic
8 acidosis. I, you know, anoxia has to be measured and
9 we have no way of measuring that, and the metabolic
10 acidosis is also a bit confusing because of the
11 infant's Apgar scores, but I believe it is reasonable
12 to conclude that the infant had a significant
13 metabolic acidosis, which was related either to a
14 lack of oxygen or low blood flow.

15 Q. I'm sorry, I'm writing, if you don't
16 mind. In fact, once again, we're jumping around,
17 having had the opportunity, Doctor, to review
18 testimony that you've given in other cases, we are
19 both -- well, I -- to the best of my ability to read
20 this medical chart and record numbers, it would
21 appear that her arterial cord gas at the time of
22 birth was 6.677 with a minus 29.5 and her -- her cord
23 then was 6.684. I didn't see those numbers in your
24 report. Is that your recollection that those were

1 the approximate cord gas numbers?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And those represent a rather severe

4 metabolic acidosis? Maybe I shouldn't say severe.

5 Go ahead.

6 A. Those cord gas values do clearly

7 represent a metabolic acidosis.

8 Q. Okay. And you indicated that the

9 cause of the metabolic acidosis was lack of O_2 and/or

10 low blood flow?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. I'm trying to, the best I can,

13 to listen and write. What would have caused the lack

14 of O_2 in this baby based upon all the evidence that

15 you have available to you?

16 A. The best evidence is that it was due

17 to the placental abruption.

18 Q. What about the lack of blood flow?

19 A. The placental abruption.

20 Q. Okay. Just so we're speaking in each

21 other's language, I want to make sure I won't be

22 surprised and hear there was some other cause.

23 Doctor, do you have an opinion based upon the

24 information available to you as to whether or not

1 Sonoma could have had a better outcome relative to
2 her neurological status had she been delivered sooner
3 than what we're calling the approximate two and a
4 half hours after arrival to Metro Health Medical
5 Center?

6 A. I do not believe it would have made a
7 significant difference in her outcome.

8 Q. Okay. You used the word significant,
9 so let's deal with that. Can I assume that we'll be
10 able to maybe agree that you think it could have made
11 some difference in her outcome had she been delivered
12 sooner?

13 A. It's impossible to determine. I mean
14 in a hypothetical sense any infant delivered at that
15 gestational age is at high risk to encounter all of
16 the problems that Sonoma Davis encountered, so the
17 timing of delivery makes it hard to -- the timing of
18 delivery in this particular situation for me does not
19 change my opinion about the outcome.

20 Q. All right. Let me ask some
21 generalized, I guess, other questions. Just to cover
22 the bases, I don't know if you'll agree with this out
23 of the box or not, we might have to work it through,
24 based upon the recovery that I saw from resuscitation

1 and blood gases, and I think we've covered it, but to
2 be clear, would you agree with me that Sonoma Davis
3 was not experiencing ongoing anoxic insults prior to
4 the time of this placental abruption?

5 A. I have no way of knowing.

6 Q. Okay. Doctor, what is the purpose of
7 fetal monitoring?

8 A. That's a very good question. Fetal
9 monitoring actually hasn't been shown to be
10 particularly useful with respect to outcome and
11 preventing problems like cerebral palsy and other
12 neurologic deficiencies. Probably the best use of
13 fetal monitoring is to identify profound changes in
14 fetal well-being that necessitate an urgent delivery.

15 Q. Profound changes being -- well, I
16 think I can guess what they are because I just read
17 the James Saravac deposition, but why don't you list
18 them for me.

19 A. Sure. Persistent fetal bradycardia or
20 low heart rate.

21 Q. Right.

22 A. Severe late, persistent late
23 decelerations, absent variability. That's all I'm
24 remembering right now.

1 Q. Okay. Well, I think that's covered in
2 what you just recently testified to.

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. And that's -- in this particular
5 instance, we're going to shift gears again, Cheryl
6 Austin presented to the emergency department, and see
7 if you agree with me, as the mother of a 26-year-old
8 (sic) viable fetus who potentially had suffered a
9 placental abruption? Do you agree with that?

10 A. It's certainly one of a large list of
11 problems that Ms. Austin and the baby could have had,
12 but it's on that list.

13 Q. And it's on that list, Doctor, because
14 she sustained a high speed MVA where there was a
15 collision between the steering wheel and her abdomen,
16 would you agree that's one of the reasons it's on the
17 list?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. Would you also agree one of the
20 reasons that placental abruption was on the list is
21 because the emergency personnel report, the ambulance
22 transport immediately reported a diffuse abdominal
23 pain, would that also have put it on the list?

24 A. Amongst many other things, yes.

1 Q. Okay. The fact that she was not
2 bleeding vaginally, either in the ambulance or at her
3 presentation to the emergency room department, that
4 is not a fact that would exclude it from being within
5 the differential, do you agree with that?

6 A. It makes it less likely, but it does
7 not exclude it from the differential.

8 Q. Knowing that there is a potential
9 abrupted placenta in a 26-week-old viable pregnancy,
10 would you agree that the standard of care required
11 that, I'm going to say someone assess fetal
12 well-being to the extent that they could know whether
13 or not any of these profound changes were occurring
14 with this baby?

15 MS. PETRELLO: Objection.

16 A. I would actually say that the most
17 important thing to do is to establish the well-being
18 of the mother in a situation like this. For the
19 fetus that's the most important intervention. And
20 until the mother's well-being is well-established in
21 a very real sense, the well-being of the fetus is
22 moot.

23 Q. All right. Well, let's deal directly
24 with the facts of this case and not hypothetically.

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. You've already acknowledged that you
3 are not ATLS certified; is that correct?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. So you don't exactly have any
6 information on what the American College of Surgeons
7 and Trauma Surgeons say about the order of
8 assessment; is that a fair statement?

9 A. Yes, it is.

10 Q. Okay. However, in this particular
11 instance, can you point out to me, Doctor, any time
12 during the interactions beginning with when she first
13 arrives, once her ABC's are clear, that this child
14 could not have simultaneously been monitored while
15 mother's evaluations were ongoing?

16 A. Perhaps you can clarify your question.
17 Are you asking me whether it would be physically
18 possible to monitor?

19 Q. Absolutely. That's what I'm -- from
20 what -- just from the chart itself and the sequence
21 of timing of events, tell me where -- well, excluding
22 when she was in the CAT scan, but from when mom first
23 presented, wasn't it possible to simultaneously have
24 somebody who was capable of doing fetal monitoring

1 and monitor the mom simultaneously while things like
2 blood pressure are being taken, resuscitation of
3 fluids for mom?

4 A. I have no way of knowing for sure
5 because I am never called to the emergency room to
6 participate in an evaluation on that basis. The --
7 but, you know, the mechanics of fetal monitoring are
8 such that it may have been possible, but I'm really
9 not qualified to say because it does require placing
10 monitors and so on that they may not have been able
11 to do because they were worried about her C-spine
12 status or other things that I'm really not qualified
13 to address.

14 Q. All right. So that we're clear about
15 that then, Doctor, since you just testified to that,
16 at the trial of this lawsuit you're not going to say
17 that it was appropriate for them not to have
18 monitored the mother with equipment in the emergency
19 room?

20 A. Boy, I don't follow what you just
21 said. I'm sorry. If you could just -- it sounded
22 like a double negative that I couldn't follow.

23 Q. It could have been, I'm famous for the
24 double negative. I'm not trying to do that. In

1 other words, when I asked you the questions couldn't
2 they have done simultaneous fetal monitoring, I
3 thought that your answer was that you couldn't answer
4 that question because that's not what you do. So
5 what I'm trying to elicit is now that you've said
6 that, at trial you're not going to say that Dr. Lewis
7 and/or the trauma staff met with the standard of care
8 in not monitoring the mom in the emergency room.

9 MS. PETRELLO: Right, Donna, we're not
10 going to ask him that.

11 A. Right. I'm not going to render an
12 opinion about whether they should or should not have
13 monitored in the emergency room because I never,
14 never in my career have been asked to participate in
15 that aspect of an evaluation in the emergency room.

16 Q. Have you ever, Doctor, been asked
17 to -- you probably have covered this, but I just want
18 to be very specific, have you ever been asked to come
19 to an emergency room to evaluate a patient prior to
20 the time they know they're going to deliver her, but
21 when there is a suspected placental abruption?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Okay. Once Sonoma Davis and her
24 mother arrived at labor and delivery, did you find

1 any evidence of persistent fetal bradycardia on the
2 strips that are available, the limited strips, prior
3 to delivery?

4 A. I'd have to look at the strips right
5 now just to be clear.

6 Q. That's fine.

7 A. Yeah, the strips are really
8 inconclusive. I just wanted to make sure I
9 remembered. I have two pages of monitoring and
10 actually the only markings on the monitors are a few
11 little dots of somebody's heart rate between 80 and
12 90, I don't know if it's the mother or baby, and it's
13 certainly not enough information to ascertain one way
14 or another whether there is significant fetal
15 bradycardia or fetal distress. I can't render an
16 opinion based on the monitoring strips.

17 Q. Based on your reading of Dr.
18 McKanders' deposition or the medical record itself,
19 what was the basis for Dr. McKanders to conclude that
20 an emergency C-section was warranted?

21 A. It's my understanding it was
22 persistent bradycardia, and I don't remember the
23 exact numbers that they described. 80 to 90, I
24 believe, but let me look.

1 Q. That's okay.

2 A. I'm sorry, 60 to 70.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. So that's my understanding, all right.

6 And, Doctor, just so you and i are at least on the

7 same page we can be on, you would agree with me that

8 mom and baby arrived on the floor at 1927, we both

9 agree that she was delivered at approximately 1948,

10 that's about 21 minutes, correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you have no reason to believe,

13 based upon the reputation of Metro Health Medical

14 Center, that if there had been an emergency C-section

15 called at any time prior they couldn't have done it

16 that expeditiously, do you?

17 A. That's the standard of care, is to do

18 a delivery within 30 minutes, and they met that

19 standard, and I would expect that they would do that

20 under any other circumstances.

21 Q. Okay. Doctor, based upon your

22 evaluation and analysis of the delivery records and

23 any information that was available about them, if

24 that's the basis that it would be, do you have an

1 opinion as to whether or not Cheryl Austin had a
2 complete abruption at the time of the collision or a
3 partial abruption?

4 A. Based on my review of the records I
5 believe that it was not a complete abruption.

6 Q. Do you believe that it was a partial
7 and it progressed?

8 A. I have no way of telling whether it
9 progressed. But I agree that it was partial.

10 Q. Okay. All right. When there is a
11 partial abruption of the placenta, could you just,
12 from a neonatologist's perspective, sort of outline
13 for me what begins to happen to the infant at the
14 time of abruption?

15 A. It's extremely variable. There are
16 many infants who are found to have a partial
17 abruption at the time of delivery and have absolutely
18 no problems at all. There are other infants who are
19 profoundly affected by a partial abruption and are
20 substantially more depressed than even this infant.
21 So it's a variable phenomenon and it's difficult,
22 frankly, it's impossible to look at an abruption and
23 correlate it with the status of the infant.

24 Q. Okay. Once again, since it's

1 impossible to do that, that's why it's important to
2 monitor a child in a situation where you believe
3 abruption may have occurred to see if there are
4 effects that have occurred for that particular baby,
5 would you agree?

6 MS. PETRELLO: Objection.

7 A. It depends on the circumstances. I
8 think that anytime a woman presents in labor,
9 presents with complaints of one sort or another, that
10 may suggest that she is in labor, that monitoring is
11 part of that care, but I'm not specifically relating
12 that to a trauma situation.

13 Q. Doctor, do you know either one of my
14 experts, Dr. Barks or Dr. Perlman, either personally
15 or by reputation?

16 A. I do not.

17 MS. PETRELLO: Donna, are you hearing
18 that? I have no idea but they're building
19 something out there. Can you hear that?

20 MS. KOLIS: It's a good sign for
21 Cincinnati's economy, it must be thriving if
22 they're doing construction.

23 MS. PETRELLO: I hope it's not
24 interfering with you.

1 MS. KOLIS: It's not interfering.

2 (Discussion off the record)

3 BY MS. KOLIS:

4 Q. All right. Doctor, at the time of
5 birth, let's talk about Sonoma right after her birth.
6 Would you agree with me that the first head
7 ultrasound did not indicate an intraventricular
8 hemorrhage?

9 A. Yes. Are you speaking to the
10 ultrasound on, I think it was 5/13?

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. Yeah, the ultrasound on 5/13 at 10:32
13 p.m. does not show evidence of an intraventricular
14 hemorrhage.

15 Q. Okay. Based upon your summarization
16 of this medical chart, Sonoma developed an
17 intraventricular hemorrhage on or about what date?

18 A. I believe, I'd have to look, on a
19 follow-up ultrasound.

20 Q. I think it's day of life three, but I
21 don't want to misstate that in the record.

22 A. 5/15, so that would be day of life
23 three.

24 Q. Okay. And in her particular

1 circumstances, do you have an opinion as to the cause
2 of her intraventricular hemorrhage?

3 A. It's associated with her extreme
4 prematurity. The causes of intraventricular
5 hemorrhage, the specific mechanisms are still not
6 completely understood, but it's clearly, in my
7 opinion, related to her prematurity.

8 Q. The coagulopathy Sonoma had was
9 related to what?

10 A. The coagulopathy was related to her
11 metabolic acidosis and prematurity.

12 Q. So it was a dual cause for that, would
13 you agree --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- or even --

16 A. Well --

17 Q. Go ahead. I'm interrupting you and I
18 didn't mean to. I'll let you finish your answer.

19 A. That's all right. The difficulty in
20 terms of sorting out what's due to metabolic acidosis
21 and what's due to prematurity has to do with the fact
22 that there's no such thing as a normal planned
23 delivery at 26 weeks' gestation, so my opinion is
24 based upon my experience with other infants delivered

1 at 26 weeks' gestation. Many of those infants have
2 metabolic acidosis because they have immature kidneys
3 and respiratory difficulties that prevent their
4 ability to compensate for the metabolic acidosis.

5 Q. Relative to those babies and, once
6 again, those babies is pretty general, but the ones
7 that you just talked about with immature kidneys and
8 respiratory difficulties, do you subcategorize those
9 children with metabolic acidosis into groups where
10 the mom went into spontaneous labor and labored for a
11 little bit or were they all emergency C-sections? Is
12 there a way for me to distinguish the patient
13 population that you're discussing?

14 A. No, there's not. The complications or
15 sequelae, to use the medical term, of prematurity
16 occur on a frustratingly random fashion and are not
17 associated with modes of delivery or causes of
18 pre-term delivery.

19 Q. Okay. Doctor, so that I have
20 something on the record for myself, you deal with
21 26-week-old infants on a regular basis, correct?

22 A. Yes, ma'am.

23 Q. I'm not -- how many times a year do
24 you care for a child who is born at or about the

1 26-week gestational marker?

2 A. I'd say five to ten patients a year.

3 It varies quite a bit. Sometimes it seems like it's
4 15 or 20, sometimes less.

5 Q. Okay. So some years you're pretty
6 stressed and some years hopefully not as stressed.
7 But relative to your -- forget the medical
8 literature, relative to your own personal experience,
9 with your five to ten or your 15 a year, do all of
10 these children have poor outcomes?

11 MS. PETRELLO: Objection.

12 A. I'd have to ask if you could be more
13 specific about outcomes. Are you talking about at
14 the time of discharge from the NICU or five years of
15 age or two years of age? Just to be more specific if
16 you could --

17 Q. Okay. I guess we can have that
18 conversation. As you may be aware -- did you have an
19 opportunity to read Dr. Barks' deposition last night?

20 A. Yes, I read it quickly, but I did read
21 it last night.

22 Q. Okay. Before I get into anything
23 relative to outcomes, did you find any of his
24 opinions to be disingenuous in any way from your

1 perspective as a physician?

2 A. If you mean dishonest, by that --

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. -- no.

5 Q. That's correct.

6 A. No.

7 Q. All right. You may from your quick
8 reading that Ms. Petrello did question Dr. Barks
9 about the effects of prematurity. For the record, I
10 think we can agree that being born at 26 weeks is a
11 challenge, that there are problems associated with
12 birth at that age, so what I want to ask you about is
13 about outcomes.

14 Doctor, based upon where the state of
15 medicine was for you in the spring of 2003, I just
16 generally want to know if you have statistical
17 categories of how many of these children born just
18 strictly at 26 weeks with, and let's throw in the
19 factor of Sonoma's weight because she was just a
20 little over a thousand grams; is that right? I think
21 953, 957, somewhere in there.

22 MS. PETRELLO: I think it was 940.

23 Q. Just based on prematurity, were you --

24 A. Your question relates to survival at

1 26 weeks or?

2 Q. Morbidity and mortality.

3 A. Okay. In terms of mortality, it's
4 difficult to be specific on a week-by-week basis, but
5 in general with infants under a thousand grams in
6 Cincinnati the mortality risk is between 25 and 30
7 percent. In other words, between 70 and 75 percent
8 of those infants survive.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. That's a general under a thousand gram
11 category.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. And in terms of morbidity there are
14 various risks for the morbidities associated with
15 prematurity, those risks range from intraventricular
16 hemorrhage, at that gestational age I would expect
17 between somewhere between 15 and 20 percent of those
18 to have intraventricular hemorrhage. I would expect
19 a somewhat larger percentage, probably 30 to 40
20 percent of those infants to have some degree of
21 retinopathy of prematurity stage two or beyond.

22 I would expect somewhere between ten
23 and 20 percent of those infants to have a significant
24 patent ductus arteriosus. I wish I could remember

1 our chronic lung disease rates for those infants. I
2 would estimate that it's around 40 to 50 percent,
3 defined as having an oxygen requirement at 36 weeks
4 post-conceptional age. And then the risk of
5 respiratory distress syndrome at that age is very
6 high, at least 90 percent, and I think in real terms
7 closer to a hundred percent.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Now, many of those infants have more
10 than one of those problems, and actually very few, if
11 any, are morbidity free of the survivors, meaning
12 that it is very unusual for a 26-week gestation
13 infant to escape all of those complications. Some
14 have many, some have just one. They -- almost all of
15 them have at least one.

16 Q. Okay. I just have a really quick
17 question to ask you, relative to your review, and I
18 know that you reviewed all of the available records
19 on Sonoma, at 36 weeks post gestation age did she
20 have an O₂ requirement?

21 A. I would have to look at the record.
22 I'm happy to do that.

23 Q. Go ahead. That's fine.

24 MS. PETRELLO: Donna, I think you said

1 36 weeks. I'm assuming you meant 26 weeks.

2 MS. KOLIS: He said 36 weeks in his

3 assessment of morbidities and co-morbidities

4 associated with prematurity and when he was

5 talking about the establishment of a

6 ventricular and respiratory diagnosis was if

7 the child was still O₂ dependent 36 weeks

8 post-gestational age.

9 MS. PETRELLO: I'm sorry.

10 MS. KOLIS: That's okay. You haven't

11 had enough coffee this morning.

12 A. As I'm looking at the record here what

13 I recall is that she went home requiring oxygen, but

14 I don't remember for sure, so let me just look here.

15 MS. PETRELLO: Those are Metro's

16 records. We don't have University's.

17 A. But it looks like, using the

18 definition of an oxygen requirement at 36 weeks

19 post-conceptual age she is documented to be in room

20 air on July 1st, so by that definition she was free

21 of bronchopulmonary dysplasia or neonatal chronic

22 lung disease. However, in the autopsy there's clear

23 evidence of bronchopulmonary dysplasia.

24 Q. Okay. All right. Going back to where

1 we were a while ago, I have to go back to my notes, I
2 want you, Doctor, do for me to the best of your
3 ability to state for me what you are going to testify
4 to the jury what the cause of death was for Sonoma
5 Davis.

6 A. The cause of death was complications
7 of prematurity, including severe obstructive
8 hydrocephalus, bronchopulmonary dysplasia, chronic
9 aspiration secondary to gastroesophageal reflux,
10 feeding problems, and poor gag reflex.

11 Q. When you say poor gag reflex, did she
12 have a gag reflex at all, Doctor, that you could
13 discern from --

14 A. In the notes, the progress notes, she
15 is documented to have no gag reflex. I find it hard
16 to believe that she could have been cared for at home
17 with absolutely no ability to swallow. I believe she
18 had a little bit, but obviously required nursing care
19 and suctioning and support because of her, what I
20 would call, poor gag reflex.

21 Q. So your point of disagreement then
22 with Dr. Barks once again, to be fair, I know that
23 you just read it last night, do you understand what
24 Dr. Barks testified was his opinion as to cause of

1 death of Sonoma?

2 A. I believe his opinion was that certain
3 findings on the neuropathological examination were
4 associated with anoxia rather than with complications
5 of obstructive hydrocephalus and that his opinion is
6 based on those -- those findings, if you will.

7 Q. Okay. You would -- I don't know if
8 you would agree with this, Doctor, based upon the
9 blood gases at time of birth and any other associated
10 factors, I think you've already agreed that Sonoma in
11 all probability had an anoxic event just prior to the
12 time of birth?

13 A. I believe that she had some loss of --
14 some oxygen levels that were lower than normal. I do
15 not agree that it was an anoxic event, and my
16 disagreement is based upon the Apgar scores at the
17 time of delivery, which are surprisingly high given
18 the degree of metabolic acidosis documented in the
19 cord gases.

20 Q. She -- okay. Those numbers corrected
21 relatively well with resuscitation, would you agree
22 with that?

23 A. Are you speaking of the Apgar scores
24 or the metabolic acidosis.

1 Q. No, yeah, not the Apgar scores. The
2 metabolic acidosis.

3 A. I recall that she had a persistent
4 metabolic acidosis for several days after --

5 Q. Right.

6 A. -- after admission, so I guess I would
7 disagree with the statement that they corrected well.

8 Q. What would be your definition of a
9 metabolic acidosis that corrected well?

10 A. One that responded to treatment within
11 a few hours with subsequent blood gases being in a
12 normal range with a base axis of better than minus 4.

13 Q. Okay. Doctor, do you disagree with
14 Dr. Barks that Sonoma Davis sustained a brain stem
15 injury due to an anoxic event?

16 A. I disagree with the last part of that
17 statement, that it was due to an anoxic event.

18 Q. Do you believe that Sonoma had a brain
19 stem injury?

20 A. I believe that her brain stem did not
21 work properly and infer from that that it was injured
22 in some way.

23 Q. Doctor, do you have an opinion which
24 you'll be rendering at trial as to the cause of the

1 malfunctioning of her brain stem since you're not
2 calling it an injury?

3 A. I believe that it was due to
4 obstructive hydrocephalus and due to episodes of hypo
5 tension that occurred during her hospitalization,
6 both during the time immediately after delivery as
7 well as the period after her abductus ligation.

8 Q. What was the cause of the hypotension
9 immediately following her delivery?

10 A. It was likely related to her
11 prematurity. I don't have a specific explanation for
12 it other than that. Many pre-term infants have
13 hypotension following delivery. It may have been
14 related to loss of blood volume, although her
15 hematocrits don't specifically reflect a profound
16 blood loss.

17 Q. Okay. All right. Let's try to
18 quickly summarize, if we can, and I don't want to
19 misstate anything, I completely missed an area.
20 Doctor, are you -- I think that Colleen made it clear
21 after you and I explored the facts of the case that
22 you're not going to be rendering testimony about the
23 standard of care in the emergency room, or did I
24 misunderstand that?

1 A. The only issue that I would have an
2 opinion about in the emergency room is the importance
3 of establishing maternal well-being in principle,
4 that my experience in resuscitating infants whose
5 mothers have been involved in a severe trauma, is
6 that if the mother is profoundly hypotensive at the
7 time of delivery or in some other way indisposed with
8 unstable vital signs that that is bad for the fetus.
9 That is the only concept, if you will, that I would
10 have an opinion about in the context of the emergency
11 room course for mother and fetus.

12 MS. PETRELLO: And, Donna, just again
13 for clarification, we're not really going to
14 be asking him questions relative to the care
15 that transpired in the emergency room and
16 whether or not that, you know, complied with
17 the standard of care.

18 MS. KOLIS: Okay. I don't want to be
19 confused. I mean obviously Dr. Greenberg is
20 highly qualified to speak to causation and I
21 didn't have any objection with that. I was
22 just curious because I didn't see any
23 specific things that he could have addressed.

24 MS. PETRELLO: We have other experts.

1 BY MS. KOLIS:

2 Q. You're not going to discuss about
3 standards of care in a generalized sense, and that
4 generalized sense is not even applicable to this
5 case; is that right? In other words, was this mother
6 unstable?

7 A. I have no opinion about that.

8 Q. Fine. Okay. So then I think that
9 what you and I have done is we have covered all of
10 causation opinions, I think you gave me short and
11 concise answers that I understand, so I only have a
12 couple of other questions. Doctor, do you belong to
13 any doctors organizations that are actively
14 advocating for tort reform in the State of Ohio?

15 A. No. I didn't know there were any.

16 Q. Oh, there are.

17 A. Oh, okay.

18 MS. PETRELLO: That's an interesting
19 question. I haven't heard that one before.

20 A. Oh, actually -- are you referring to
21 like the Ohio Medical Association? I'm not a member
22 of the Ohio Medical Association, but I do -- I get
23 letters from them every so often about tort reform,
24 but, no, I'm not a member of any organization.

1 Q. All right. And I'm not asking you
2 this question to harass you in any way, but, Doctor,
3 have you ever been sued for professional liability?
4 A. No, I have not.
5 Q. Okay.
6 MS. PETRELLO: Objection.
7 Q. I didn't find one on the index, but
8 computers are only as good as their operators and
9 sometimes the information is not included. And one
10 final bias question, I suppose, Doctor, who covers
11 your professional liability insurance? Who are you
12 insured by?
13 MS. PETRELLO: Just note an objection.
14 A. We are insured at Children's Hospital.
15 We are self-insured.
16 Q. Okay.
17 A. And the name of the insurance company
18 that, I guess, Children's Hospital owns is called
19 River City Insurance.
20 Q. So it's your own internal insurance?
21 A. It is self -- self coverage.
22 Q. Okay. Doctor, do you believe that I
23 have fairly and adequately covered all of the
24 opinions which you are going to be offering at the

1 trial of this lawsuit?

2 A. Yes, I do.

3 MS. KOLIS: Okay. Having said that,
4 thank you very much. Don't forget to prepare
5 a bill. And I assume he will read his
6 deposition.

7 MS. PETRELLO: Yes, he will.

8 MS. KOLIS: Okay. I will waive the
9 seven days, I think.

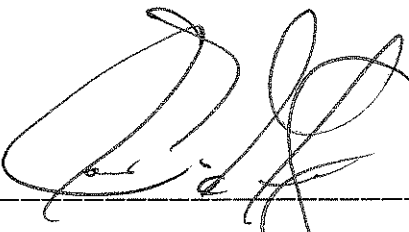
10 (Deposition concluded at 10:00 a.m.)

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JAMES M. GREENBERG, M.D.

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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF OHIO :
:
SS
COUNTY OF HAMILTON :

I, Heidi L. Constable, RPR, RMR, the undersigned, a duly qualified and commissioned Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, do hereby certify that before the giving of his aforesaid deposition, the said JAMES M. GREENBERG, M.D. was by me first duly sworn to tell the truth; that the foregoing is a deposition given at said time and place by the said JAMES M. GREENBERG, M.D.; that said deposition was taken in all respects pursuant to agreement of counsel as to the time and place; that said deposition was taken by me in stenotypy and transcribed by computer-aided transcription under my supervision; and that examination and signature to the transcribed deposition is not waived.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee of, or attorney for any of the parties in the above-captioned action; I am not a relative or employee of an attorney of any of the parties in the above-captioned action; I am not financially interested in the action; I am not, nor is the court

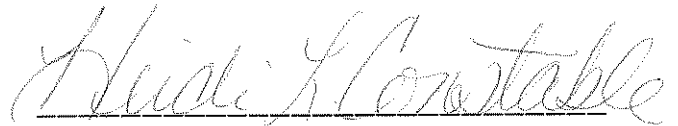
1 reporting firm with which I am affiliated, under a
2 contract as defined in Civil Rule 28(D).

3 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and
4 official seal of office at Cincinnati, Ohio, this
5 18th day of October, 2005.

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My commission expires: Heidi L. Constable, RPR, RMR

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January 5, 2010

Notary Public/State of Ohio

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CORRECTIONS TO TRANSCRIPT

CIN-TEL CORPORATION

813 Broadway, Suite 200

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

(513) 621-7723

CASE NUMBER: 538,701

Case Caption: CHERYL AUSTIN AOK, ESTATE OF SONOMA DAVIS V. METROHEALTH MED CTR ET AL

Deponent: James M. Greenberg M.D. Date: OCT. 10, 2005

Page# Line#:

1 6 "Cause" → case

36 8 "I," → As

39 17 "Saravac" → Cerovac