

	Page	Page 3
1	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS	1 KEITH KRUTHOFF, M.D., of lawful age, called
2	OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO	2 for examination, as provided by the Ohio Rules of
3	- - - - -	3 Civil Procedure, being by me first duly sworn, as
4	DIANE COLVIN, ADMINISTRATOR	4 hereinafter certified, deposed and said as
5	OF THE ESTATE OF GREGORY	5 follows:
6	COLVIN,	6 EXAMINATION OF KEITH KRUTHOFF, M.D.
7	Plaintiff,	7 BY MS. TOSTI:
8	vs. Case No.	8 Q. Doctor, would you please state your
9	KEITH KRUTHOFF, M.D.,	9 name for us and spell your last name.
0	ET AL., 388614	10 A. My name is Keith Leonard Kruithoff,
1	Defendants.	11 K-R-U-I-T-H-O-F-F.
2	- - - - -	12 Q. What is your home address?
3	DEPOSITION OF KEITH KRUTHOFF, M.D.	13 A. 3305 Dorchester Road, Shaker Heights,
4	Friday, June 30, 2000	14 Ohio.
5	- - - - -	15 Q. And the zip code?
6	Deposition of KEITH KRUTHOFF, M.D.,	16 A. 44120.
7	a Defendant herein, called by the Plaintiff	17 MR. POLITO: Do me a favor, doctor,
8	for examination under the statute, taken before	18 speak up a little bit louder because Mr. Skiver
9	me, Karen M. Patterson, a Registered Merit	19 has to hear you down at the end of the table.
3	Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State	20 Q. Is that a single-family home, doctor?
	of Ohio, pursuant to notice and stipulations of	21 A. Yes.
2	counsel, at the offices of Bonezzi switzer Murphy	22 Q. And what's your current business
3	& Polito Co., L.P.A., suite 1400, The Leader	23 address?
4	Building, Cleveland, Ohio, at 9:35 o'clock a.m.	24 A. 10 Severance Circle, Cleveland
5	on the day and date set forth above.	25 Heights, Ohio. I think it's 44128.
	Page 2	Page 4
1	APPEARANCES:	1 Q. And at the time that you rendered care
2	On behalf of the Plaintiff	2 to Gregory Colvin, was that also your business
3	Becker & Mishkind Co., L.P.A., by	3 address?
4	JEANNE TOSTI, ESQ.	4 A. No. It was 12301 Snow Road, Parma,
5	Suite 660 Skylight Office Tower	5 Ohio, 44130.
6	1660 West 2nd Street	6 Q. At the time that you rendered care to
7	Cleveland, Ohio 44113	7 Gregory Colvin, who was your employer?
8	(216) 241-2600	8 A. The Ohio Permanente Medical Group.
9	On behalf of the Defendant Cleveland Clinic	9 Q. Who is your current employer?
0	Foundation:	10 A. The Ohio Permanente Medical Group.
1	STEPHEN A. SKNER, ESQ.	11 Q. Do you currently render professional
2	30025 E. River Road	12 services for any other entity besides Ohio
3	Perrysburg, Ohio 43551	13 Permanente Medical Group?
4	(419) 666-3417	14 A. No.
5	On behalf of the Defendant Keith Kruithoff,	15 Q. Have you ever had your deposition
6	M.D.:	16 taken before?
7	Bonezzi Switzer Murphy & Polito Co.,	17 A. Yes.
8	L.P.A., by	18 Q. How many times?
9	JOHNS. POLITO, ESQ.	19 A. Three prior times.
0	Leader Building, Suite 1400	20 Q. And why was your deposition being
1	526 Superior Avenue	21 taken? And by that I mean in what capacity was
2	Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1491	22 your deposition being taken?
3	(216) 875-2767	23 MR. POLITO: Objection. Go ahead and
4	On behalf of the Defendant Ohio Permanente	24 answer.
5	Medical Group:	25 A. Twice as Plaintiff -- as a Defendant
6	Roetzel & Andress, by	
7	ANNA MOORE CARULAS, ESQ.	
8	1375 East 9th Street	
9	Cleveland, Ohio 44114	
0	(216) 623-0150	
1	----	
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5		

1 in a malpractice suit, and once as an expert
2 witness.

3 MR. SKIVER: I'm sorry, doctor, I
4 didn't hear that last part.

5 A. Once as an expert witness and twice as
6 a Defendant in a malpractice lawsuit.

7 Q. I want to review a few of the ground
8 rules for depositions with you. This is a
9 question-and-answer session, and it's under oath,
0 it's important that you understand my questions.

1 A. Sure.

2 Q. If you don't understand them, if I
3 phrase them inartfully, let me know, I'll be
4 happy to repeat it, rephrase the question.
5 Otherwise, I'm going to assume you understood my
6 question and you are able to answer.

7 It's also important that you give all
8 of your answers verbally, because our court
9 reporter can't take down head nods or hand
0 motions.

1 At some point, were you provided with
2 a set of medical records to look at?

3 A. Yes, I was.

4 Q. If at some point you wish to refer to
5 those records, feel free to do so.

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. Also, at some point one of the defense
3 attorneys may choose to enter an objection. You
4 are still required to answer my question unless
5 counsel tells you not to do so. Do you
6 understand those directions?

7 A. Yes, I do.

8 Q. Doctor, you mentioned that you had
9 been named as a Defendant in a medical
0 malpractice litigation on two occasions; is that
1 correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 MR. POLITO: Jeanne, just show a
4 continuing line of objection to these questions.

5 MS. TOSTI: Okay.

6 Q. Could you tell me, were both of those
7 times in Cuyahoga County?

8 A. One was.

9 Q. Where was the other?

0 A. Jackson County, Michigan.

1 Q. And are either of those cases still
2 pending?

3 A. No.

4 Q. When was the Cuyahoga County case
5 filed, approximately?

1 A. Early 1997.

2 Q. And how was that case resolved?

3 A. The case was resolved by a jury trial.

4 Q. And what was the resolution of the
5 case?

6 A. The resolution of the case was a
7 finding for the Plaintiff.

8 Q. What was the name of the Plaintiff in
9 that case?

0 A. Ernest Tolar.

1 Q. I'm sorry.

2 A. Ernest Tolar.

3 Q. Could you spell that last name?

4 A. T-O-L-A-R.

5 Q. And what was the allegation of
6 negligence?

7 A. The allegation of negligence was
8 wrongful death.

9 Q. Well, what was alleged that you did
0 improperly?

1 A. Failure to diagnose cardiac tamponade.

2 Q. Do you recall who the Plaintiff's
3 attorney was in that case?

4 A. Steve Charms.

5 Q. And, doctor, you mentioned that there

1 was another case that was filed in Jackson City,
2 Michigan. When was that case filed,
3 approximately?

4 A. 1994.

5 Q. And how was that resolved?

6 A. It was settled.

7 Q. And what was the allegation of
8 negligence in that case?

9 A. Failure to diagnose necrotizing
0 fascitis.

1 Q. Do you recall the name of the
2 Plaintiff in that case?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Do you recall the name of the
5 Plaintiff's attorney in that case?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Now, you have indicated that you
8 served as an expert on one occasion; is that
9 correct?

0 A. Yes.

1 Q. Is that case currently pending?

2 A. No.

3 Q. When did you serve as an expert?

4 A. It was in 1993.

5 Q. Was that in Ohio here?

1 A. No.
 2 Q. What state was it in?
 3 A. Michigan.
 4 Q. Was that for Plaintiff or for the
 5 defense?
 6 A. Plaintiff.
 7 Q. Do you recall what the allegation of
 8 negligence was in that case?
 9 A. I'm not sure if I was an expert
 0 witness or a fact witness. It was regarding a
 1 child abuse case, and I was a treating
 2 physician.
 3 Q. Have you ever given trial testimony?
 4 I imagine in the one case that went to trial you
 5 did.
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. What about in regard to the Michigan
 8 case, did you give trial testimony?
 9 A. No.
 0 Q. Did you give trial testimony in the
 1 child abuse case that you mentioned?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. Doctor, I'm going to ask you a little
 4 bit about your background. Did you happen to
 5 bring a curriculum vitae with you?

1 A. Yes, I am.
 2 Q. Are there any additions or corrections
 3 that you'd like to make to that document?
 4 A. No.
 5 Q. Is it up to date, as far as you know?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. Doctor, the publications that you have
 8 listed on your Curriculum vitae, do you feel any
 9 of those have particular significance to the
 10 issue in this case?
 11 A. No.
 12 Q. Your background that is listed under
 13 professional history in regard to the department
 14 of emergency medicine, could you just describe
 15 for me in a little bit more detail as to what
 16 your responsibilities entailed with that
 17 position.
 18 A. Yes. During residency, I moonlighted
 19 in two emergency rooms. Following the completion
 20 of residency, I worked full time at Foote
 21 Memorial Hospital in Jackson, Michigan, as a
 22 full-time attending emergency room physician for
 23 one year prior to the commencement of my
 24 cardiology fellowship in 1994.
 15 I also continued to work part time in

1 A. Yes.
 2 (Thereupon, PLAINTIFF'S Deposition
 3 Exhibit 1 was mark'd for purposes
 4 of identification.)
 5 MR. POLITO: Exhibit 1?
 6 THE WITNESS: Yes.
 7 Q. Doctor, you are currently licensed in
 8 both Ohio and Michigan; is that correct?
 9 A. Yes.
 0 Q. And you are also board certified in
 1 internal medicine; is that correct?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. Are you also board certified in
 4 cardiology?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. Did you pass both of those board
 7 certifications on your first try?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. I'd like you to just identify what
 0 this document is for the record, and then I'll
 1 have a few more questions for you.
 2 A. This is a copy of my curriculum vitae
 3 prepared by me.
 4 Q. You're referring to Plaintiff's
 5 Exhibit 1; correct?

1 the -- at the Hillsdale Community Health Center
 2 during this period and into my Cardiology
 3 fellowship.
 4 Q. Currently are you providing any
 5 emergency room services for Ohio Permanente
 6 Medical Group?
 7 A. No.
 8 Q. So all of your work currently is as a
 9 cardiologist for Ohio Permanente Medical Group?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. In 1997 and 98, what hospitals did you
 12 have privileges at?
 13 A. The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, and I
 14 believe I still have admitting privileges at
 15 Hillsdale Community Health Center.
 16 Q. Do you currently still have privileges
 17 at Cleveland Clinic Foundation?
 18 A. Yes, I do.
 19 Q. Are those admitting privileges?
 20 A. Yes, they are.
 21 Q. Have you ever had your hospital
 22 privileges called into question, suspended or
 23 revoked?
 14 MR. POLITO: Objection. Go ahead.
 25 A. No.

Page 13

1 Q. Doctor, do any of the publications
2 that are listed on your curriculum vitae deal
3 with the subject matter of bacterial
4 endocarditis?

5 MR. POLITO: Objection. Asked and
6 answered, but go ahead.

7 A. No.

8 Q. Do any deal with prosthetic heart
9 valves?

0 A. No.

1 Q. Have you ever taught or given a formal
2 presentation on the subject matter of bacterial
3 endocarditis?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. When have you done that?

6 A. May of 1994.

7 Q. May of 19 --

8 A. 94.

9 Q. Has that presentation ever been
10 reduced to a written form or a video or an
11 audiotape?

12 A. It was reduced to an abstract.

13 Q. Is that listed on your curriculum
14 vitae?

15 A. No.

Page 14

1 Q. What is the title of the abstract?

2 A. I don't recall specifically, but I
3 believe it -- it's the utility of transesophageal
4 and transthoracic echocardiography in the
5 diagnosis of infective endocarditis.

6 Q. Was that abstract published in any
7 publication?

8 A. No.

9 Q. I'm sorry?

0 A. No.

1 Q. Do you have a copy of that abstract?

2 A. At home.

3 Q. Would you be able to provide that to
4 counsel?

5 A. Yes.

6 MS. TOSTI: I'm going to make a
7 request for a copy of that abstract.

8 Q. Tell me what you have reviewed for
9 this deposition.

10 A. I reviewed the Cleveland Clinic
11 hospital record for Mr. Colvin; I reviewed the
12 Kaiser Permanente chart for Mr. Colvin; I
13 reviewed the Cleveland Heights Medical Center
14 ghost file for Mr. Colvin; I reviewed the record
15 of my telephone documentations with Mr. Colvin; I

Page 15

1 reviewed a copy of my schedule on February, March
2 and May of 1998; I reviewed Eugene Braunwald's
3 chapters on infective endocarditis and rheumatic
4 heart disease in the second edition of
5 Braunwald's Textbook of Cardiovascular Diseases.

6 Q. When you indicated that you reviewed
7 the Cleveland Clinic Foundation records, Mr.
8 Colvin had several admissions. Did you review
9 the records from each of those admissions?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You also mentioned a Cleveland Heights
12 ghost file. What is contained in the Cleveland
13 Heights ghost file?

14 A. A copy of pertinent hospital discharge
15 summaries or other records pertaining to the
16 patient's care that have been previously
17 generated through either the Kaiser records or
18 through Cleveland Clinic records.

19 Q. Is everything in that file a duplicate
20 of what would be found in part in the Cleveland
21 Clinic records or the Kaiser records?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Now, you mentioned telephone
24 documentation. Do you keep some type of a
25 telephone log when you talk with clients?

Page 16

1 A. Yes.

2 MS. TOSTI: I'm going to make a
3 request for the telephone log that pertains to
4 Gregory Colvin, obviously redacting anything that
5 doesn't relate to him.

6 MR. POLITO: Okay.

7 Q. And you mentioned you also referred to
8 a copy of your schedule from February, March, and
9 what months was it?

10 A. February, March and May of 1998.

11 Q. And why is it that you referred to
12 those three months of your schedule?

13 A. I referred to those three months
14 because those were the months that Mr. Colvin had
15 been admitted to the hospital.

16 MS. TOSTI: I'm going to make a
17 request for the doctor's schedule for those three
18 months also.

19 Q. Now, in regard to your reference to
20 Braunwald's, do you find Braunwald's to contain
21 accurate and helpful information in your
22 practice?

23 MR. POLITO: Objection. Go ahead,
24 doctor, you can answer.

25 A. I don't consider it to be an

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 authoritative text, but the information contained 2 is generally reliable. 3 Q. And why is it that you referred to 4 Braunwald in this case? 5 A. To review the subject matter at hand. 6 Q. And in regard to the material that you 7 reviewed in Braunwald's for this case, did you 8 find that information to be reliable? 9 MR. POLITO: Objection. Go ahead. 10 A. I can't validate the accuracy of 11 everything, but generally reliable, yes. 12 Q. Did you find anything that you didn't 13 agree with in there? 14 MR. POLITO: Objection. Go ahead. 15 A. Not specifically. 16 MR. SKIVER: You're really going to 17 have to work at speaking up because you kind of 18 have a nice, low voice. 19 THE WITNESS: Can he sit closer? 20 MR. SKIVER: But, still, your voice is 21 not transmitting at all. 22 Q. Since this case was filed, have you 23 discussed this case with any physicians? 24 A. Since it was filed, no. 25 Q. And other than with counsel, have you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 MS. TOSTI: I'm going to make a 2 request for the doctor's summary of those 3 conversations that he had had with Craig 4 Saunders. 5 Q. What was the subject matter of the 6 conversations that you had with Dr. Saunders? 7 A. The surgical management of the patient 8 and my inquiry as to why the patient wasn't taken 9 to surgery on May 15th. 10 Q. And what did you find out when you 11 talked with Dr. Saunders in regard to those 12 issues? 13 A. Dr. Saunders stated that he accepted 14 full responsibility for not taking the patient to 15 surgery on May 15th. 16 Q. Do you feel that Gregory Colvin should 17 have gone to surgery on May 15th? 18 MR. POLITO: Objection. Go ahead. 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. Did Dr. Saunders say that he thought 21 he should have taken him to surgery on May 15th? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. In this case, do you think if Mr. 24 Colvin had gone to surgery on that date that the 25 outcome would have been positive and he would</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 discussed the case with anyone else since it was 2 filed? 3 A. No. 4 Q. Do you have any personal notes or 5 personal file on this case? 6 A. I took some notes from some 7 conversations I had had, and when I found this 8 case was the subject of litigation, I reviewed 9 the medical record and summarized the medical 10 record for my attorneys. 11 Q. Now, you said that you took some notes 12 from conversations you had. Who did you have 13 those conversations with? 14 MR. POLITO: Objection. Go ahead. 15 A. Dr. Craig Saunders. 16 Q. And when did you have those 17 conversations with Dr. Saunders? 18 MR. POLITO: Objection. Just show a 19 continuing line. 20 A. Following Mr. Colvin's death. 21 Q. Do you still have notes from those 22 conversations? 23 A. I have -- I took those notes, and I 24 wrote a written summary on the computer and I 25 subsequently threw the notes away.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 have survived? 2 MR. POLITO: Wait a minute, doctor. 3 Objection. Go ahead. 4 A. Could you rephrase your question or 5 define what you mean by positive? 6 Q. That he would have survived. 7 MR. POLITO: Objection. 8 Q. That's what I mean by positive. 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. When did you have the conversation 11 with Dr. Saunders? You said it was after Mr. 12 Colvin's death. Could you tell me how much after 13 his death it was? 14 A. I believe it was Mr. Colvin died on 15 Sunday, May 17th. I believe the conversation 16 took place that following week. I believe it may 17 have been on Tuesday of that week, but it was 18 within one or two days of that date. 19 Q. How many conversations did you have 20 with Dr. Saunders? 21 A. One. 22 Q. After that one conversation, did you 23 have cause to speak with him at any other time 24 about Mr. Colvin? 25 A. No.</p>

Page 21

1 Q. Did you have any communications with
2 the family after you talked with Dr. Saunders in
3 regard to the failure to take Mr. Colvin to
4 surgery?

5 A. Could you break the question down?

6 Q. After Mr. Colvin died and you had an
7 opportunity to talk with Dr. Saunders, did you
8 talk with any of the Colvin family members?

9 A. Yes.

0 Q. And what did you tell them in regard
1 to why Mr. Colvin was not taken to surgery, if
2 anything?

3 A. That question was never asked of me.

4 Q. Did Dr. Saunders tell you why Mr.
5 Colvin was not taken to surgery on May 15th?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Why was that?

8 A. He told me he had received inaccurate
9 clinical information on the patient from Joyce
10 Tedrick, the surgical scheduler, and he falsely
11 relied on her opinion, or he inaccurately, he
12 erroneously -- when I say falsely, what I meant
13 to say is he erroneously relied on her opinion.

14 Q. What information did she provide to
15 him that misdirected him?

Page 22

1 MR. SKIVER: Objection.

2 MR. POLITO: If you know.

3 A. According to Dr. Saunders, he told me
4 that he had received inaccurate information about
5 the patient's clinical status and was led to
6 believe the patient was clinically stable enough
7 to wait till Monday for his surgery.

8 Q. Was there a particular thing in regard
9 to his clinical status that was considered
10 unstable?

11 MR. SKIVER: Objection. Go ahead.

12 Q. I know that's an odd question. But
13 what I'm getting at, was it cardiac
14 decompensation, was it some other problem, that
15 he was told that caused the patient to be
16 clinically unstable?

17 A. Could you read the question, please.

18 (Record read.)

19 A. The patient was in fulminant heart
20 failure with documented valvular dehiscence and
21 severe four plus paravalvular mitral
22 insufficiency.

23 Q. Did you ever have any conversations
24 with Joyce Tedrick in regard to the information
25 that was provided to Dr. Saunders?

Page 23

1 A. No.

2 Q. Do you know if Dr. Saunders got back
3 to her and talked with her?

4 MR. SKIVER: Objection. Go ahead.

5 MR. POLITO: After his conversation
6 with him?

7 MS. TOSTI: Yes.

8 MR. POLITO: He never spoke to -- go
9 ahead.

0 A. I'm confused.

1 Q. Well, let me -- no, not after the
2 conversation. Do you know whether Dr. Saunders
3 ever spoke with Joyce Tedrick in regard to the
4 misinformation he was provided?

5 A. I don't know whether he spoke
6 subsequently to Joyce Tedrick. I know that he
7 had received two clinical updates from Joyce
8 Tedrick on the date of May 15th regarding the
9 patient's clinical status.

10 Q. Do you know where Joyce Tedrick
11 received her information from?

12 A. Joyce Tedrick received her information
13 from Dr. Paul Miller, who was the consulting
14 cardiologist and a member of our cardiology group
15 who was seeing Mr. Colvin on a consultative basis

Page 24

1 during his admission from May 15th until the time
2 of his death.

3 Q. Do you know whether the information
4 that Dr. Paul Miller was providing to Joyce
5 Tedrick was inaccurate?

6 A. No. I can personally verify the
7 accuracy of the information, since on that day I
8 had -- we both clinically evaluated the patient
9 together and we had a conversation as to the
10 clinical acuity of the patient, and both agreed
11 that the patient's condition was serious and
12 required emergent surgery.

13 Q. Did you and Dr. Miller then concur in
14 regard to the status of the patient as well as
15 the emergent necessity for surgery for this
16 patient?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Doctor, have you participated in any
19 research dealing with the subject matter of
20 bacterial endocarditis?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Could you tell me when you
23 participated in that research?

24 A. In the spring of 1993 as a part of my
25 senior research project at the University of

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 Michigan Medical Center when I was a resident, I 2 performed a retrospective chart review of 3 approximately 90 sequential patients who had been 4 sent to the echocardiogram laboratory for the 5 diagnosis of presumptive endocarditis and 6 compared the sensitivity specificity, positive 7 and negative predicted value, of both surface 8 echocardiography and transesophageal 9 echocardiogram in the diagnosis of infective 10 endocarditis.</p> <p>11 Q. What were your findings from that 12 study?</p> <p>13 A. I would have to review my abstract.</p> <p>14 Q. Did you find that transesophageal 15 echocardiography was predictive of endocarditis?</p> <p>16 A. I can't answer that question in the 17 affirmative. Again, I would need to review my 18 abstract. However, I can state from my memory 19 that the study showed that the sensitivity of 20 transesophageal echocardiogram was superior to 21 surface echocardiogram. However, the positive 22 predicted value was lower.</p> <p>23 Q. Where was that study done?</p> <p>24 A. University of Michigan Medical Center.</p> <p>25 Q. Were the results of that study ever</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 Q. Doctor, would you agree that there has 2 to be a high degree of vigilance for bacterial 3 endocarditis in a patient with a prosthetic heart 4 valve?</p> <p>5 MR. POLITO: Objection. Go ahead.</p> <p>6 A. How would you define vigilance?</p> <p>7 Q. That when you are assessing a patient 8 you have to be specifically looking for 9 indicators that might indicate the patient had a 10 bacterial endocarditis if you knew that the 11 patient had a prosthetic heart valve.</p> <p>12 MR. POLITO: Objection.</p> <p>13 A. I think it's a fairly -- I think with 14 any disease entity, one has to know what they're 15 looking for in order to make a diagnosis.</p> <p>16 Q. But specifically with a patient that 17 has a prosthetic valve, don't you have to have a 18 heightened index of suspicion for bacterial 19 endocarditis when you assess the patient?</p> <p>20 MR. POLITO: I'm going to object, but 21 go ahead, doctor.</p> <p>22 A. I think that you have to understand 23 the spectrum of sequeli that can be related to 24 having a prosthetic valve endocarditis as one of 25 those sequeli.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 published?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. Was that study ever replicated, to 4 your knowledge?</p> <p>5 A. Don't know.</p> <p>6 Q. Now, doctor, is your current practice 7 limited to the field of cardiology?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. And was that also true at the time 10 that you cared for Gregory Colvin?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you do any invasive cardiology?</p> <p>13 A. Can you define invasive?</p> <p>14 Q. Cardiac catheterizations, 15 angioplasties, those types of things,</p> <p>16 A. In terms of invasive procedures, I 17 perform diagnostic cardiac catheterizations, I 18 perform transesophageal echocardiograms, I 19 perform implantation of temporary and permanent 20 cardiac pacemakers.</p> <p>21 Q. What is prosthetic valve 22 endocarditis?</p> <p>23 A. Prosthetic valve endocarditis is 24 infection of a prosthetic cardiac valve usually 25 from a bacteria. It could be from a fungus.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 Q. When you see a patient, even if it's 2 for a regular checkup and you know that patient 3 has a prosthetic valve, do you look for 4 indications as to whether the patient may have 5 signs or symptoms of endocarditis?</p> <p>6 A. I do if the clinical history suggests 7 that.</p> <p>8 Q. How often do you see patients with 9 prosthetic valve endocarditis in your clinical 10 practice?</p> <p>11 A. How often or how many times?</p> <p>12 Q. In the past year, how many cases have 13 you seen?</p> <p>14 A. In the past year, I have seen three 15 cases.</p> <p>16 Q. Do you know what the incidence of 17 prosthetic valve endocarditis is after valve 18 replacement surgery?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. What is that?</p> <p>21 A. It can vary between one to four 22 percent.</p> <p>23 Q. And is early or late prosthetic valve 24 endocarditis more common?</p> <p>25 A. I believe late prosthetic valve</p>

Page 29

1 endocarditis is more common.
 2 Q. And how would you define late
 3 prosthetic valve endocarditis?
 4 A. There's various definitions. The
 5 classic definition is endocarditis which becomes
 6 clinically manifest greater than 60 days after
 7 prosthetic valve surgery. However, some people
 8 would say that late endocarditis could be defined
 9 as clinical presentation of prosthetic valve
 0 endocarditis one year after surgery.

1 Q. In Gregory Colvin's case, would you
 2 consider him to be an early or late prosthetic
 3 valve endocarditis patient?

4 A. By the definition, he would have to be
 5 considered late, since the diagnosis was made
 6 greater than 60 days from surgery. However, I
 7 think with Mr. Colvin, an argument could also be
 8 made that he was an early case of prosthetic
 9 valve endocarditis.

10 In fact, Dr. Miller felt that, in his
 11 note, that the patient had early prosthetic valve
 12 endocarditis, and by the definition of some
 13 authors suggesting that endocarditis diagnosed
 14 within up to a year of initial surgery could
 15 still be considered early prosthetic valve

Page 30

1 endocarditis.

2 Q. Was Dr. Miller an Ohio Permanente
 3 Medical Group physician also?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Is he still associated with Ohio
 6 Permanente Medical Group?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What are the signs and/or symptoms of
 9 bacterial endocarditis?

10 A. Signs and symptoms are, first, a
 11 person who has a specific predisposition to
 12 endocarditis with a regurgitant valvular murmur,
 13 characteristic skin findings, the presence of
 14 fever, and the presence of positive blood
 15 cultures. Echocardiography can show the lesions
 16 associated with endocarditis as well.

17 Q. Is anemia associated with bacterial
 18 endocarditis?

19 MR. SKIVER: I'm sorry, I didn't hear
 20 what you said.

11 MS. TOSTI: Anemia.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What about increased erythrocyte
 24 sedimentation rate?

25 A. Yes.

Page 31

1 Q. Anorexia and weight loss?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did the signs and symptoms for
 4 prosthetic valve bacterial endocarditis differ
 5 any from the ones that you have just mentioned?

6 A. No.

7 Q. How is the diagnosis of the prosthetic
 8 valve endocarditis made?

9 A. The diagnosis is made with a clinical
 10 suspicion and appropriate clinical history by
 11 documentation of fever and documentation of
 12 positive blood cultures with a suspected organism
 13 found from those cultures. There can be
 14 characteristic skin findings. There may be
 15 constitutional symptoms that are also found.

16 Q. And would you agree that
 17 echocardiographic information is also helpful in
 18 the clinical diagnosis of bacterial
 19 endocarditis?

20 A. Yes, I would.

21 Q. What type of complications are
 22 associated with prosthetic valve endocarditis?

23 A. Multiple. They include mechanical
 24 valve destruction with destruction of the sewing
 25 ring, valvular dehiscence, increase in severity

Page 32

1 of valvular regurgitation with congestive heart
 2 failure and death. They can include embolic
 3 phenomenon from emboli, from vegetations, which
 4 embolize to the cerebral circulation or to other
 5 visceral organs. With this embolization, there
 6 can be metastatic infective seeding of other
 7 tissues. Additionally, there can be direct
 8 invasion of the contiguous myocardium with
 9 abscess formation with conduction system disease,
 10 heart block.

11 Q. And, doctor, when you mentioned
 12 dehiscence of the valve, could you tell me what
 13 that means, what happens with the dehiscence of
 14 the valve?

15 A. What that means is that, in addition
 16 to an infection being present on the valve
 17 itself, there's also infection present around the
 18 supporting structure that the valve is anchored
 19 onto. The sewing annulus can become infected,
 20 and that can result in contiguous spread to the
 21 adjacent annular structures and adjacent
 22 myocardium. And with infection, there can be
 23 essentially destruction of the suture material,
 24 of -- of actual -- the suture material which
 25 holds the valve in place and the valve can become

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 unstable, it can actually become separated from 2 the support structure to which the valve is 3 secured. 4 Q. In regard to endocarditis, what are 5 vegetations? 6 A. Vegetations are structures which 7 consist of fibrin, platelets, bacteria that form 8 a mass either on the valve or the valve 9 supporting structures, such as the annulus, the 10 struts, or any part of the prosthetic valve 11 itself. 12 Q. And if vegetations are seen on a heart 13 valve on echocardiography, is that cause for 14 concern? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. Why is that? 17 A. It implies that the patient may have a 18 diagnosis of either previous or active 19 endocarditis and may be at risk for the sequela 20 of endocarditis. 21 Q. Specifically would that sequela be 22 septic embolism of a vegetation? 23 A. As mentioned earlier, it could be 24 septic embolism, it could be actual mechanical 25 destruction of a valve with worsening valvular</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 transducer, you have the ability to refine and to 2 resolve cardiac structures with much greater 3 detail than could be seen with a surface 4 echocardiogram. 5 Q. So I want to understand what you're 6 saying. In some instances, would a transthoracic 7 be more predictive of vegetations than a 8 transesophageal? 9 A. The sensitivity would be lower, but 10 the positive predicted value may be higher. 11 Q. On a transthoracic? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. So if there's a question of 14 endocarditis, is it the best course of action to 15 do both of those tests, to have both the 16 transthoracic as well as a transesophageal echo 17 done? 18 A. They generally complement one another, 19 but just to explain a little bit of what I mean, 20 because you can see with great clarity, there are 21 certain structures, for example, a valve 22 thickening which you may not appreciate by 23 surface echocardiogram, when seen with a 24 transesophageal echocardiogram could represent a 25 vegetation or could simply represent a myxomatous</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 regurgitation, destruction of the supporting 2 apparatus to which the valve is sewed with 3 dehiscence and paravalvular regurgitation. It 4 could be destruction of the papillary muscle of 5 the chordae tendineae with worsening 6 regurgitation, heart failure. It could be direct 7 invasion into the myocardium, direct invasion to 8 the conduction system with development of heart 9 block. 10 Q. And, doctor, I think you have already 11 mentioned this before, but I just want to clarify 12 this: Is a transesophageal echo more sensitive 13 for picking up signs suggestive of prosthetic 14 valve endocarditis as compared to a transthoracic 15 echo? 16 A. It is more sensitive, yes. I would 17 also add that, while being more sensitive with 18 its ability to visualize in detail complex 19 cardiac structures, the positive predicted value 20 may also be lower of a finding of a possible 21 vegetation. 22 Q. And why is that? 23 A. Because of the physics of 24 transesophageal echocardiography where, because 25 of the ability to use a higher frequency</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 degeneration of a valve and simple valvular 2 thinning. So there are things which you can see 3 on a transesophageal echocardiogram which aren't 4 necessarily endocarditis, but the diagnosis could 5 also be entertained. 6 Q. And, generally speaking, to diagnose 7 endocarditis, you have to look at the clinical 8 picture as well as what's being seen on 9 echocardiography; correct? 10 A. I think that the most important part 11 of the diagnosis is the appropriate clinical 12 history with the presence of, in general, blood 13 cultures which -- let me slow down -- with 14 positive blood cultures of a suggested organism 15 and demonstration of a continuous bacteremia. 16 Q. What clinical indicators would warrant 17 proceeding with an echocardiogram if you're 18 thinking that the patient may have a bacterial 19 endocarditis? What would move you to do the 20 echocardiogram? 21 MR. POLITO: Objection. Go ahead. 22 A. The appropriate -- a person at risk 23 with the appropriate clinical history suggestive 24 of possible endocarditis, regardless of blood 25 culture data.</p>

Page 37

1 Q. Do you have to have valvular
2 vegetations present before a diagnosis of
3 prosthetic valve endocarditis can be made?
4 A. No.
5 Q. And does a patient have to have
6 positive blood cultures before a presumptive
7 diagnosis of prosthetic valve endocarditis can be
8 made?
9 A. No.
10 Q. How is prosthetic valve endocarditis
11 treated?
12 A. It's treated with -- there's two forms
13 of treatment. There's medical treatment with a
14 prolonged course of intravenous antibiotics
15 directed against the bacteremia isolated from the
16 blood cultures, or the presumptive organism. At
17 the minimum, four weeks; at the maximum, longer.
18 If the patient fails medical
19 management at any time, immediate surgical
20 intervention must be available to treat that
21 patient for mechanical complications related to
22 endocarditis or serious life-threatening
23 complications related to endocarditis, including
24 congestive heart failure, severe valvular
25 regurgitation with congestive heart failure,

Page 38

1 continuous bacteremia unable to be cleared by
2 medical therapy, evidence of direct myocardial
3 abscess formation or myocardial invasion
4 evidenced by conduction system disease, heart
5 block, multiple embolic phenomenon, or a patient
6 that has continued fever or doesn't respond to
7 medical therapy.
8 Q. Now, when you say surgical management,
9 are you referring to the removal of the
10 prosthetic valve and replacement?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. Is there any other surgical
13 management? Is it possible to repair a valve
14 that is infected?
15 A. Yes.
16 Q. Could you tell me a little bit more
17 about how that might be done.
18 A. I'm not a surgeon, and I don't have
19 surgical expertise, and I can't render an
20 opinion.
21 Q. Well, I'm just asking in regard to
22 what procedures. I'm not asking you to explain
23 them, doctor. Are you aware of additional
24 procedures other than pulling the valve and
25 replacing it that can be done?

Page 39

1 A. Again, for the record, I want to state
2 that I'm not a cardiothoracic surgeon; I do not
3 claim to be an expert in this particular area.
4 In general, it is recommended that if there is a
5 prosthetic valve infection, that the prosthetic
6 valve has to be removed. There could be
7 circumstances where simply the vegetations could
8 be removed, for example, or the valve could be
9 repaired, but this is usually reserved for
10 patients who have a valve endocarditis.
11 Q. Generally speaking, if there is
12 surgical intervention with prosthetic valve
13 endocarditis, the procedure is going to be to
14 remove the valve and replace it, generally
15 speaking?
16 A. Because of the fact that it is a
17 prosthesis and there isn't host defense systems
18 available to counter an infection, in general, if
19 a prosthetic valve is infected, it requires
20 surgical removal and replacement.
21 Q. Would you agree that if a patient has
22 prosthetic valve endocarditis, the sooner the
23 patient is treated with antibiotics, the more
24 likely the outcome will be positive, and by
25 positive, I mean that the infection can be

Page 40

1 resolved and the treatment will be successful?
2 MR. POLITO: Objection.
3 A. I would agree with that supposition if
4 the diagnosis truly is endocarditis.
5 Q. Would you agree that there has to be a
6 high index for suspicion of bacterial
7 endocarditis when a prosthetic valve patient
8 presents with fever of unknown origin, fatigue
9 and night sweats?
0 MR. POLITO: Objection.
1 A. Yes.
2 Q. And, doctor, in a patient with a
3 prosthetic valve endocarditis, what would be the
4 indicators for recommending surgical intervention
5 from the perspective of the cardiologist?
6 A. I believe I answered that question
7 previously.
8 MR. POLITO: He did.
9 Q. Well, I'm going to ask you to
:0 reiterate it, doctor.
:1 MR. POLITO: No. He's already
:2 answered it. If you want to hear his answer --
:3 Q. Doctor, please answer my question.
:4 MR. POLITO: He's not going to answer
:5 it. He's already answered it.

1 Q. Please answer my question, doctor.
 2 MR. POLITO: No. On advice of
 3 counsel, he's not going to answer it again.
 4 Q. Doctor, in a patient with prosthetic
 5 valve endocarditis, what would be the indicators
 6 for recommending surgical removal and replacement
 7 of the valve?
 8 MR. POLITO: Did you already answer
 9 that, doctor?
 10 THE WITNESS: Yes.
 11 Q. I'm going to ask you to answer it
 12 again, doctor.
 13 MR. POLITO: No. He's already
 14 answered it. If you want to read his answer
 15 back.
 16 Q. Do cardiologists make recommendations
 17 for surgical removal?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. And so you would be an individual, if
 20 you were caring for a patient with prosthetic
 21 valve endocarditis, that would call in a surgical
 22 consult if you felt that the patient's condition
 23 indicated that; correct?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. Would the timing of the actual surgery

1 condition?
 2 A. May I read you my assessment, or --
 3 Q. Feel free, doctor.
 4 A. My assessment from that visit was that
 5 he was a 49-year-old gentleman with a history of
 6 rheumatic heart disease and clinical evidence of
 7 mitral regurgitation and possibly mitral
 8 stenosis, and that the patient had new onset
 9 atrial fibrillation since October 10th. I felt
 10 that his new onset atrial fibrillation was from
 11 rheumatic valvular heart disease and that he
 12 demonstrated marked symptomatic atrial
 13 fibrillation.
 14 Q. And was this a problem that likely had
 15 extended over a long period of time gradually
 16 becoming worse?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. Did you order any diagnostic testing
 19 after you had an opportunity to do your
 20 assessment?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. What did you do?
 23 A. I recommended that the patient undergo
 24 a TE echocardiogram. I also recommended that he
 25 continue and increase the dose of atenolol for

1 be up to you or up to the surgeon?
 2 A. It's very important that --
 3 MR. POLITO: Just listen to her
 4 question. Just answer her question.
 5 A. Could I hear the question again?
 6 (Record read.)
 7 A. It would be a joint management
 8 decision.
 9 Q. Do you have an independent
 10 recollection of Gregory Colvin as you sit here
 11 today?
 12 A. Yes, I do.
 13 Q. And when was the first time that you
 14 cared for Gregory Colvin?
 15 MR. POLITO: Off the record.
 16 (Discussion off the record.)
 17 A. October 30th, 1997.
 18 Q. Now, doctor, when you first saw
 19 Gregory Colvin, why was it that he was seeing
 20 you?
 21 A. He was referred to me from the
 22 emergency room for consultation following his
 23 emergency room visit, admission on IO-11-97.
 24 Q. What was your conclusion as you had an
 25 opportunity to assess him regarding his

1 recontrol of atrial fibrillation, and continue to
 2 receive anti-coagulation warfarin for
 3 thromboembolic prophylaxis and rheumatic mitral
 4 stenosis and mitral regurgitation.
 5 Q. Did you also arrange for him to have a
 6 cardiac catheterization?
 7 A. At that time, no.
 8 Q. At some time after that, did you?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. And once you finished with the echo
 11 and the cardiac cath, did you have any
 12 impressions regarding his condition that were
 13 different than what they were initially?
 14 A. Based upon the echocardiogram, it
 15 confirmed that, in addition to the clinical
 16 suspicion of mitral regurgitation, that he had at
 17 least a moderate degree of mitral stenosis and
 18 rheumatic valvular heart disease involving all
 19 four of his valves. It was also my conclusion
 20 that with his rheumatic heart disease and mitral
 21 stenosis that he was very symptomatic with atrial
 22 fibrillation.
 23 Q. Did you recommend valve replacement
 24 for him?
 25 A. Initially, I asked for him to be seen

Page 45

1 as a second opinion by Dr. Emin Tuzcu, an
2 interventional cardiologist at the Cleveland
3 Clinic specializing in coronary intervention and
4 mitral valvuloplasty, for consideration of mitral
5 valvuloplasty to treat his condition.

6 Q. What was the result of that
7 evaluation, if you know?

8 A. The recommendation was for the patient
9 to undergo a mitral valve replacement and that he
10 was not a candidate for mitral valvuloplasty.

11 Q. Now, I believe Gregory Colvin had his
12 prosthetic valve placed and a repair of his
13 tricuspid on admission to the Cleveland Clinic on
14 February 4th. To your knowledge, did he have any
15 intraoperative complications or problems?

16 A. Reviewing the record, he had a second
17 pump run, meaning that he went on cardiopulmonary
18 bypass for a second time following a
19 transesophageal intraoperative echocardiogram
20 which showed, after his first pump run, three
21 plus moderately severe tricuspid insufficiency.
22 It was my understanding it was felt he would
23 benefit from a tricuspid valve annuloplasty to
24 treat that.

25 Q. Aside from that, is there any other

Page 46

1 problems or complications that you're aware of
2 that occurred intraoperatively with the surgery?

3 A. Reviewing the anesthesia record and
4 the operative note, there was no other
5 complications that were noted.

6 Q. Now, while he was in the hospital for
7 that surgery at The Cleveland Clinic, did you
8 follow him clinically?

9 A. Yes. In part. Not exclusively.

10 Q. Was there another cardiologist that
11 was sharing responsibilities as far as his
12 clinical followup in the hospital?

13 A. In general, our inpatient clinical
14 service is divided into two separate services.
15 One part of that service is consultative in
16 nature providing inpatient cardiology consults to
17 the Department of Medicine and other Kaiser
18 subspecialties. The other part of that inpatient
19 service are patients for whom we are primary
20 physicians for. Those patients consist of people
21 who are status post angioplasty and who are
22 status post cardiothoracic surgery. Specifically
23 regarding the patients who are status post
24 cardiothoracic surgery, we're involved with a
25 co-joint management of these patients with the

Page 47

1 cardiothoracic surgeons.

2 In general, it was our practice in
3 1998 at the time of Mr. Colvin's hospitalization
4 that the person who was either on the angioplasty
5 service for that day or the cardiac
6 catheterization service for that day to round the
7 patient. At that time, in our group, there were
8 seven cardiologists who functioned in one of
9 those two roles, and whomever happened to be on
10 the schedule that day would see those patients on
11 our inpatient service. On two of those -- excuse
12 me -- on three of those days I saw Mr. Colvin.

13 Q. Could you tell me what three days you
14 saw him?

15 A. I have to refer to the record.

16 MR. POLITO: Three days you said.

17 A. I saw him on February 7th, Saturday;
18 February 8th, Sunday; and February 10th,
19 Tuesday. I believe I may have also -- I believe
20 I did also receive some requests for verbal
21 orders from nurses on other days as well. But I
22 physically saw him on those three days indicated.

23 Q. And were you seeing him on those days
24 because it was your turn as the person that was
25 doing the interventional? You said people that

Page 48

1 were doing angioplasties and that were then going
2 and doing the clinical rounds. Was that those
3 days that you were involved in the cath lab?

4 A. For the 10th, that was correct. For
5 the 7th and 8th, I was on call for the weekend.

6 Q. Now, several days after his surgery,
7 Gregory Colvin began running a temperature
8 elevation. Why, in your opinion, did he have a
9 fever several days after surgery?

10 A. Can you define specifically which days
11 you're referring to?

12 Q. I believe on the 8th, I think, is when
13 he had a fever.

14 A. Well, there are multiple causes of
15 postoperative fever. There's a long differential
16 diagnosis for postoperative fever, and we
17 usually --

18 Q. Well, I want to restrict this to
19 Gregory Colvin, this case.

20 MR. POLITO: Are you asking what he
21 thought was the fever in this case?

22 MS. TOSTI: Yes.

23 A. There were many possibilities. They
24 could have included atelectasis from
25 postoperative splinting, change in lung

1 compliance, postoperative pain with poor lung
2 expansion. They could have included pleural
3 effusion, respiratory infection, pneumonia,
4 pneumonitis. They could have included
5 postoperative pericarditis, or
6 post-pericardiotomy syndrome. Additionally,
7 urinary tract infection, collection of blood in
8 the wound, wound infection, bacteremia, and
9 certainly endocarditis were all considerations in
10 Mr. Colvin's case.

11 Q. All of the things you just mentioned,
12 were those within your differential diagnosis for
13 this patient --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- when you saw him?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. When you saw him, did he have any
18 signs or symptoms to suggest bacterial
19 endocarditis or septicemia?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Doctor, what does it mean to have a
22 left shift in a differential count on a complete
23 blood count?

24 A. A left shift refers to an elevated
25 polymorphonucleocyte count in the white blood

1 A. No.

2 Q. Why not?

3 A. I don't see an elevated neutrophil
4 count. And the left -- that's the answer.

5 Q. So this particular CBC would not raise
6 an index of suspicion to you for infection; is
7 that correct, based on the differential?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Now, doctor, considering that this
10 patient was having a temperature elevation while
11 he was in the hospital after prosthetic valve
12 surgery, should he have been followed on a
13 regular basis with complete blood counts and
14 differentials prior to the time he was
15 discharged? In other words, do a series of
16 them?

17 A. He should have had a workup directed
18 towards infection and towards the differential
19 diagnosis that I mentioned to you.

20 Q. What would that workup include?

21 A. It would include chest x-ray, blood
22 cultures. An echocardiogram would be helpful in
23 any patient who has undergone valve surgery
24 predischage. It would have included a
25 urinalysis. It would have included -- it would

1 cell components.

2 Q. Is that something that's seen with
3 infection?

4 A. It can be. But not exclusively.

5 Q. When a left shift is seen on a white
6 blood cell count, is that something that raises
7 the index of suspicion for infection?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I'd like you to take a look at the CBC
10 and differential that was done on February 8th.
11 I think it's the second page of the two-page lab
12 sheet from that date.

13 MR. POLITO: Which date?

14 MS. TOSTI: February 8th.

15 MR. POLITO: Okay.

16 Q. And I think the first page is the
17 complete blood count, and then there's a second
18 page --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- on the copy that I have of the
21 differential. On it, under differential
22 comments, it says left shift. Do you see that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did you agree that there is a left
25 shift in that differential?

1 I have included emphasizing to the patient the
2 importance of using his spirometer and taking
3 daily walks. It would have included inspection
4 of the wounds and careful physical examination.

5 Q. And do you know in Gregory Colvin's
6 case whether those things that you have just
7 identified were done during this admission?

8 A. I believe they were.

9 Q. Now, Gregory Colvin had a CVP line in
10 place when he was in the ICU; is that correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And central venous catheters are
13 usually secured with a suture to the skin;
14 correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. When a central venous catheter is
17 removed, the suture is also supposed to be
18 removed; correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. In Gregory Colvin's case, do you know
21 who was responsible for removing the central
22 venous catheter during his February 4th
23 admission?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Who is that?

Page 53

1 A. Cardiothoracic surgery.
 2 Q. Do you know the individual that
 3 removed his CVP line?
 4 A. No.
 5 Q. Now, cardiothoracic surgery, would
 6 that be Cleveland Clinic personnel?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Now, at the time of Gregory Colvin's
 9 discharge, he was not supposed to be seen on an
 0 outpatient basis for approximately a month; is
 1 that correct?
 2 A. It's our custom and practice to see
 3 patients usually within three to four weeks of
 4 hospital discharge following cardiothoracic
 5 surgery.
 6 Q. And that's fairly standard procedure
 7 then?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. Now, when you saw Gregory Colvin after
 10 his discharge from his heart surgery and prior to
 11 his subsequent admission, did you note any
 12 murmurs?
 13 MR. POLITO: Wait a minute. You're
 14 talking between February the 4th and February the
 15 27th?

Page 54

1 MS. TOSTI: Yes.
 2 Q. Did you see him during that period of
 3 time?
 4 A. No.
 5 Q. When is the next time that you did see
 6 him?
 7 MR. POLITO: I think it's March 18th.
 8 Is that right?
 9 A. Could you rephrase the question?
 0 Q. When, after he was discharged from the
 1 hospital from his heart surgery, was the next
 2 time that you saw him?
 3 A. I saw him on March 19th. I did
 4 communicate by phone with him on February 23rd.
 5 It may have been March 18th.
 6 Q. The last time that you saw him was in
 7 the hospital on February 10th, though; correct?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. And at the time that you saw him on
 10 February 10th, did you have any concerns that he
 11 had any type of an infectious process going on?
 12 A. It was, again, part of the
 13 differential diagnosis, and I had requested an
 14 infectious workup to be done and reviewed the
 15 workup that had been done over the preceding

Page 55

1 three days.
 2 There's -- let me refer to my note on
 3 the 10th. On the 10th, I made note that he had
 4 had a chest x-ray on the 8th which had showed a
 5 small right pleural effusion. I noted that he
 6 had two blood cultures pending. And I noted that
 7 his white blood cell count was 9.4 and that his
 8 urine was not sent. I recommended that the urine
 9 be re-sent. I know that he had received, I
 0 believe, three blood cultures on February 9th and
 1 two additional blood cultures on February 10th.
 2 Q. Now, doctor, Gregory Colvin came into
 3 the emergency room, was admitted, on February
 4 23rd, I believe. You indicated that you had a
 5 conversation with him prior to that admission; is
 6 that correct?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Can you tell me when that conversation
 9 occurred?
 10 A. Yes, if I review my record. It was on
 11 February 23rd.
 12 Q. Did he contact you?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. And why was he calling you? Was this
 15 a telephone call, I take it?

Page 56

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. Why was he calling you?
 3 A. The patient's wife called stating that
 4 the patient was sweating so much since the
 5 procedure at night and had fever which had not
 6 been more than 101, and that the patient and his
 7 wife would like to hear from me.
 8 Q. Now, you are referring to a document.
 9 What document are you referring to?
 0 A. I'm referring to documentation of my
 1 phone encounter with the patient in the medical
 2 record.
 3 Q. The document that you're looking at
 4 currently, is that part of the Kaiser records, or
 5 is this a personal document of yours?
 6 A. This is part of the Kaiser record.
 7 Q. Did you give his wife any instructions
 8 after you were provided with that information?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. What instructions did you give her?
 11 A. I requested that the patient be
 12 brought to the emergency room to be admitted to
 13 rule out prosthetic valve endocarditis.
 14 Q. Now, doctor, at the time that he went
 15 to the emergency room, did you have an

1 opportunity to review those records, the
2 evaluation that was done at the time you went to
3 the emergency room?

4 A. I was called by Dr. Yitzchak Glick
5 from the emergency room, who was the Kaiser
6 attending physician caring for the patient during
7 that admission and emergency room evaluation.

8 Q. What did Dr. Glick tell you?

9 A. I need to review the record.

0 MR. POLITO: What did he tell you?

1 A. He told me essentially the patient's
2 physical examination and what he had done thus
3 far for the patient's management,

4 Q. What was the physical examination
5 findings that he gave you?

6 A. There were no remarkable physical exam
7 findings excepting -- there was no physical --
8 there was no remarkable physical exam findings.

9 Q. Did he tell you that Mr. Colvin was
0 having intermittent chills, fever and night
1 sweats?

2 A. Well, Mr. Colvin had told me the
3 history himself when I talked to him that day on
4 the phone.

5 Q. And that he had generalized body

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What were the findings on the
3 transesophageal echo? Were those something that
4 you reviewed?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Did anyone notify you of those
7 results?

8 A. I reviewed them as part of the
9 discharge summary from the patient's
10 hospitalization. I did not review the primary
11 data. I did not review the report of the data at
12 the time.

13 Q. Have you at any point in time reviewed
14 any echocardiography films on this patient?

15 A. No.

16 Q. In regard to the transesophageal echo
17 that was done after his admission on the 23rd,
18 did you review the report at the time that he was
19 in the hospital? Was that information provided
20 to you?

21 MR. POLITO: While he was in the
22 hospital?

23 MS. TOSTI: Yes.

24 A. No.

25 Q. Did you receive any phone calls from

1 weakness, decreased appetite for about a week?

2 A. He, you know, summarized his history
3 of present illness, and that was the same
4 information that was provided to me by Mr. Colvin
5 and by Mrs. Colvin.

6 Q. And based on the information provided,
7 did you have a high index of suspicion for
8 prosthetic valve endocarditis?

9 A. Yes.

0 Q. Would you agree that in Gregory
1 Colvin's case a transesophageal echo was
2 warranted as part of the evaluation for
3 prosthetic valve endocarditis?

4 A. I recommended that the patient be
5 admitted and that he have that procedure done.

6 Q. And was that done?

7 A. Yes. I also recommended that he --

8 MR. POLITO: Doctor, listen to her
9 question, okay.

0 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

1 Q. Go ahead and finish what you were
2 going to say, doctor.

3 A. I answered the question.

4 Q. Doctor, he did have a transesophageal
5 echo; correct?

1 any physicians in regard to the findings of that
2 transesophageal echo?

3 A. No.

4 Q. I'd like you to take a look at the
5 report of the February 24th transesophageal echo
6 that was done. Now, you had an opportunity to
7 review that prior to your deposition; is that
8 correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. That particular transesophageal echo
11 notes that there's a small echo density, I think,
12 in the anterior lateral part of the annulus
13 suggesting it's a suture, and it recommends
14 followup to be certain of the benign nature of
15 the echo; correct?

16 A. Yes. Correct.

17 Q. Do you know whether Gregory Colvin had
18 a followup TEE to determine if there was any
19 changes in that echo density?

20 A. I know that he did not have a followup
21 TEE.

22 Q. And for this particular patient, given
23 the fact that he had a prosthetic valve and that
24 he had a fever of unknown origin, wouldn't it
25 have been prudent to do a followup TEE?

1 MR. POLITO: Objection.
 2 A. Not necessarily.
 3 Q. Well, in this case, you don't think it
 4 was indicated?
 5 A. Not necessarily.
 6 Q. Why not?
 7 A. Because the findings appeared benign.
 8 Additionally, the report of the -- this specific
 9 report was not available for my review when I saw
 0 the patient on March 18th, that the review of
 1 this report would not have changed my decision,
 2 however.
 3 Q. You'd agree that Gregory Colvin was at
 4 high risk for prosthetic valve endocarditis given
 5 his history of mitral valve replacement and
 6 fevers of unknown origin; correct?
 7 MR. POLITO: Objection.
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. And in this case, given that history,
 10 I want to be perfectly clear, you don't feel that
 11 it was necessary to do a followup transesophageal
 12 echo while he was in the hospital to determine
 13 whether or not there was a change in that echo
 14 density given his history of fever, night sweats
 15 and prosthetic valve; correct?

1 MR. POLITO: Objection. It's been
 2 answered twice.
 3 A. Could you read the question.
 4 (Record read.)
 5 A. I don't feel it was necessary to repeat
 6 it while he was in the hospital seeing that the
 7 clinical utility of doing that would have been
 8 low, since he received his echocardiogram on the
 9 24th and he was discharged on the 27th.
 0 Q. How about after discharge? Should his
 1 echo, his transesophageal echo, been repeated to
 2 determine whether there was a change in that echo
 3 density?
 4 A. Knowing the sensitivity of a
 5 transesophageal echocardiogram, knowing the
 6 person who -- knowing the reputation of the
 7 person who read the echocardiogram, knowing the
 8 fact that with the increased sensitivity of
 9 transesophageal echocardiography, there is a much
 10 lower positive predicted value, and knowing that
 11 echo can resolve very small fine cardiac
 12 structures, it seemed to me in my clinical
 13 judgment that this finding did indeed most likely
 14 represent a suture.
 15 Again, this report wasn't immediately

1 available to me at the time of his evaluation
 2 when I saw the patient in followup.
 3 Q. Doctor, if you have an echo density on
 4 a transesophageal echo, and then you do a second
 5 one and you have two to compare, if there's a
 6 change in that echo density, isn't that going to
 7 be more indicative of an endocarditis than if the
 8 echo density remains the same?
 9 A. No, because echocardiography in and of
 0 itself does not make the diagnosis of
 1 endocarditis.
 2 Q. So an additional transesophageal echo
 3 would not provide you with anymore information
 4 regarding the character of that echo density; is
 5 that correct?
 6 A. On the basis of the first
 7 transesophageal echo, it was fairly clear that it
 8 was a suture.
 9 Q. Well then, why did the
 10 echocardiographer suggest a followup?
 11 MS. CARULAS: Note an objection as to
 12 the mindset of that individual.
 13 MR. POLITO: Right.
 14 A. You would have to ask Dr. Marek.
 15 Q. Now, at the time of his discharge from

1 the hospital on February 26th, Gregory Colvin's
 2 hemoglobin, I believe, was down to 10.1, and his
 3 hematocrit was 30.5. Would you agree that he was
 4 anemic at the time that he was discharged?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. Do you have any idea as to why he had
 7 that anemia?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. What was causing his anemia?
 0 A. My impression is that it was
 1 postoperative anemia from his recent valvular
 2 heart surgery, and that he had some additional
 3 fall in his hematocrit from phlebotomy that took
 4 place during his hospitalization during February
 5 23rd and the 27th.
 6 Q. What phlebotomy are you referring to
 7 in his February 23rd admission?
 8 A. The entirety of the blood that was
 9 drawn from that patient reflected in the record.
 0 Q. So you're referring to just the normal
 1 laboratory blood draws that were done on him?
 2 A. I'm referring to the laboratory blood
 3 draws in addition to the blood cultures which
 4 were drawn on him, any phlebotomy that was drawn
 5 on him during that hospitalization.

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 Q. You feel that was reflected in his 2 drop in hemoglobin/hematocrit; correct? 3 A. That, in conjunction with his 4 postoperative anemia. 5 Q. Now, during his February 23rd hospital 6 admission, Gregory Colvin was noted to have a 7 stitch abscess from a retained silk suture on the 8 right side of his neck at the site of a prior CVP 9 line, and there was purulent drainage that was 10 expressed on more than one occasion. Were you 11 aware that he had an abscess during this 12 admission? 13 MR. POLITO: I think, Jeanne, the 14 question should be asked of him, was he involved 15 with the patient's care during this admission. 16 MS. TOSTI: No. The question I'm 17 asking, he saw the guy after he was discharged. 18 Q. Were you aware that this patient had 19 an abscess in his neck during that admission? 20 MR. POLITO: Subsequently? 21 MS. TOSTI: Yes. 22 MR. POLITO: You keep saying during 23 that admission. 24 Q. Doctor, did you see him at all during 25 the February 23rd admission?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> <p>1 suture when he was in the hospital? 2 MR. POLITO: Objection. 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Would you agree that, given his fever 5 of unknown origin and his high risk for 6 prosthetic valve endocarditis and the purulent 7 drainage from that stitch abscess in his neck, he 8 should have been cultured when he was in the 9 hospital? 10 MR. POLITO: Objection. 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. And would you agree that an abscess in 13 his neck that was emitting several cc's of 14 purulent material placed him at high risk for 15 infection of his prosthetic valve? 16 MR. SKIVER: Objection. 17 MR. POLITO: Objection. 18 MR. SKIVER: Go ahead. 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. Now, doctor, given the fact that he 21 had a fever of unknown origin, that he was having 22 night sweats, that he had a stitch abscess in his 23 neck and there was an echo density on his 24 transesophageal echo that wasn't clearly defined 25 as to what it was, wouldn't it have been prudent</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> <p>1 A. I did not care for the patient. I saw 2 him socially very briefly on one occasion, I 3 believe the first or second day after his 4 admission. 5 Q. And when you saw him, were you 6 reviewing his chart or looking at any of his 7 management or anything at that point in time? 8 A. No. 9 Q. So the next time that you saw him, was 10 that on March 18th? I think that's what you 11 previously said. 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. When you saw him on March 18th, were 14 you aware that he had had a stitch abscess during 15 the time that he was in the hospital beginning on 16 February 23rd? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. And, doctor, would you agree that the 19 standard of care is to remove the sutures 20 anchoring a central venous pressure catheter when 21 the catheter is removed? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. And that the fact that he had a 24 retained suture, would you agree that someone 25 made an error when they did not remove that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> <p>1 to repeat the transesophageal echo to determine 2 if there was any changes on this patient? 3 MR. POLITO: Wait a minute, Jeanne. 4 He's answered that twice, and he's already given 5 you his answer. 6 MS. TOSTI: No, he has not answered 7 that question twice. We have not discussed 8 purulent drainage in the neck with that set of 9 facts. I'm asking him another question. 10 Q. Now, doctor, given the fact that he 11 had a stitch abscess in his neck, that he had a 12 fever of unknown origin and he had the echo 13 density on his transesophageal echo and that the 14 source of that fever was never determined, 15 shouldn't he have had a followup transesophageal 16 echo, given those facts? 17 MR. POLITO: I'm going to object, but 18 go ahead, doctor. 19 A. Can I take a break? 20 Q. I'd like you to answer the question 21 that's before you, doctor, and then feel free to 22 take a break. 23 A. If that was the only diagnosis being 24 considered, yes, but there were many other 25 diagnoses being considered.</p>

Page 69

1 Q. Well, doctor, considering the
 2 catastrophic nature of prosthetic valve
 3 endocarditis, wouldn't it have been prudent to
 4 err on the side of caution and to do a followup
 5 transesophageal echo for this patient?
 6 MR. POLITO: Objection.
 7 A. First of all, I disagree with your
 8 contention that he continued to have fevers.
 9 When he was seen by me on March 18th, he noted
 0 tiredness and night sweats, but did not, to me,
 1 document fevers. He had called into the Kaiser
 2 phone system on the 17th stating that he had a
 3 fever to 99 degrees and was given advice from the
 4 advice nurse. But on his visit on March 18th,
 5 it's not reflected, in my record, that he even
 6 mentioned that to me.
 7 Q. Did you take his temperature on March
 8 18th?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. Was it normal?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. You would agree that with bacterial
 13 endocarditis, patients have fluctuations in
 14 temperatures; correct?
 15 A. Generally speaking, yes.

Page 70

1 Q. Was Mr. Colvin asked to keep a
 2 temperature diary?
 3 A. Upon discharge from hospital on
 4 February 27th, that was what he was instructed to
 5 do.
 6 Q. Was he doing that?
 7 A. I don't believe so.
 8 Q. Did you ask him specifically, are you
 9 taking your temperature on a regular basis?
 10 A. I don't believe I asked him that
 11 specific question.
 12 Q. So do you know one way or the other
 13 whether he was doing it or not?
 14 A. No, I don't.
 15 Q. Doctor, you had requested a break, and
 16 if you'd like to take one, that's fine.
 17 (Recess had.)
 18 Q. After his discharge from the hospital
 19 on February 27th, were you the person that was
 20 going to follow him medically?
 21 A. No.
 22 Q. Do you know who that was?
 23 A. He was to follow up with his primary
 24 physician, Dr. Howard Simon.
 25 Q. But from a cardiology perspective, was

Page 71

1 he supposed to have followup from a cardiologist
 2 after discharge?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. And were you the cardiologist that was
 5 going to provide that followup?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. Now, did he have any blood cultures
 8 done after his discharge from the Cleveland
 9 Clinic on the 27th, to your knowledge?
 0 A. No.
 1 Q. And were you ever asked to do that, to
 2 do blood cultures on him after discharge?
 3 A. No.
 4 Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether
 5 followup cultures were warranted after his
 6 discharge from Cleveland Clinic on the 27th?
 7 A. It was the recommendation of the
 8 infectious disease specialist who saw the
 9 patient.
 10 Q. And whose responsibility would it be
 11 then to do those blood cultures?
 12 A. It would have been the responsibility
 13 of the discharging physicians to provide the
 14 patient either a prescription for blood cultures
 15 or a laboratory requisition slip.

Page 72

1 Q. And do you have any knowledge as to
 2 whether either of those things were done?
 3 A. No.
 4 Q. Now, doctor, you saw him then on March
 5 18th of 98; correct?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. And there's a clinical note in the
 8 Kaiser records that's in your handwriting; is
 9 that correct?
 0 A. Yes.
 1 Q. Now, doctor, could you open to that
 2 particular clinical note that you wrote.
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. Now, at the bottom of the first
 5 section where it begins, "Patient admitted 2/23
 6 through 2/27," do you see that? It's a
 7 handwritten progress sheet.
 8 MR. POLITO: Yes.
 9 Q. Do you see where I'm talking about in
 10 the bottom of the first block of writing?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. Could you read what that says,
 13 beginning with "Patient admitted 2/23"?
 14 A. "Patient readmitted 2/23 through 2/27
 15 with FUO and bacterial endocarditis ruled out.

1 Now returns, notes fatigue and continued
2 weakness."
3 Q. Thank you. Now, is it your opinion
4 that prosthetic valve endocarditis was ruled out
5 during his admission of 2/23?
6 A. It was my opinion based upon reading
7 the discharge summary and the impression of the
8 infectious disease consultant who saw the
9 patient.
10 Q. So the answer to my question is yes,
11 it was your opinion that it was ruled out during
12 that admission; correct?
13 A. My answer is yes.
14 Q. Was the source of his fever ever
15 discerned?
16 A. No, but speculations were made as to
17 what it may be due to.
18 Q. What were the speculations as to the
19 cause of his fever?
20 A. The infectious disease specialist who
21 saw the patient suspected it was a stitch
22 abscess. He also considered postcardiotomy
23 syndrome. At one point he considered urinary
24 tract infection.
25 Q. Were any of those more likely than the

1 recovering from open heart surgery, postoperative
2 anemia, and symptomatic atrial fibrillation.
3 Q. Now, when you examined Gregory Colvin,
4 you found he had a one-over-six early systolic
5 murmur at the right sternal border; correct?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. Was that a new finding?
8 A. No.
9 Q. Had you previously documented that
10 systolic murmur anywhere?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. Could you tell me where?
13 MR. POLITO: Let me go back to the
14 admission right after the surgery. Go ahead,
15 doctor.
16 A. I documented it on my progress note,
17 February 7th and February 8th, 1998.
18 Q. So you would disagree with Dr. Mistry
19 who said he had no murmurs at the time of his
20 discharge on February 12th of 98 from the
21 Cleveland Clinic; correct?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. Doctor, if blood cultures had been
24 done on March 18th when you saw him, do you have
25 an opinion as to whether they would have been

1 other?
2 A. Stitch abscess was the most likely.
3 Q. What is postcardiography syndrome?
4 A. Postcardiotomy syndrome is --
5 Q. Is it cardiotomy? I didn't hear the
6 term.
7 A. Cardiotomy. It's fever from --
8 resulting from pericarditis or from simply
9 opening the pericardium at the time of surgery.
10 Q. Do you know whether Gregory Colvin was
11 seen by any other physicians between the time of
12 his discharge and the time that you saw him on
13 March 18th?
14 A. No.
15 Q. Did he have any echocardiograms done
16 between the time of his discharge and the time
17 that you saw him on March 18th?
18 A. No.
19 Q. Now, when you saw him on March 18th,
20 he was complaining of fatigue and weakness;
21 correct?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. What did you believe was causing those
24 symptoms?
25 A. I believed it was a combination of

1 positive?
2 A. I have an opinion that they would be
3 negative.
4 Q. Why is that?
5 A. Based upon his recent hospitalization
6 and his nine negative sets of blood cultures that
7 were obtained between February 23rd and February
8 27th. In addition, I believe there was two other
9 blood cultures obtained while in the emergency
10 room on February 23rd. All of those blood
11 cultures have a negative. And, in addition, the
12 patient's clinical status was improved when I saw
13 him on followup on 3-18.
14 Q. Now, after you saw him on 3-18, when
15 is the next time that you saw Gregory Colvin?
16 A. April 22nd, 1998.
17 Q. April 22nd?
18 A. April 22nd.
19 Q. Now, I believe I saw in the records
20 that he had an EKG done, I believe, on April
21 20th. Was that done by a technician or -- I was
22 just wondering if you were involved when that EKG
23 was done.
24 A. That was done at preadmission testing
25 prior to his cardioversion on the 22nd.

Page 77

1 Q. Now, on April 21st of 98 he had a
2 hemoglobin and hematocrit done and his hemoglobin
3 was 9.7 and his hematocrit was 29.1, which was
4 somewhat lower than what it had been. Do you
5 have any opinion as to why his hemoglobin and
6 hematocrit was continuing to go down rather than
7 come up?

8 A. No, I don't.

9 Q. Doctor, you'd agree that weight loss
10 and anemia are symptoms that may be associated
11 with endocarditis?

12 MR. POLITO: Objection. Asked and
13 answered. Go ahead, doctor.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Do you know if Gregory Colvin had any
16 weight loss following his prosthetic valve
17 surgery?

18 MR. POLITO: Up to what point? At any
19 time?

20 Q. At any time after his valve surgery,
21 are you aware of any weight loss that he had?

22 MR. POLITO: Let's take a look at it.

23 A. Could you read the question?

24 (Record read.)

25 A. Yes.

Page 78

1 Q. And would you tell me what type of
2 weight loss you are aware of?

3 A. I know that his weight on the
4 Cleveland Clinic Foundation admission assessment
5 dated 2-4-98 indicates his weight was 183
6 pounds. And when the patient was seen by me in
7 followup on 3-18-98, his weight was 1558
8 pounds. However, when he was seen on May 7th,
9 there was no appreciable change in his weight.
0 His weight at that date was 154.2 pounds.

1 Q. Now, you saw him again then on May
2 7th; is that correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And at the May 7th visit, did he
5 complain of continued intermittent night sweats?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And did you have an opinion as to what
8 was causing his intermittent night sweats?

9 A. I was considering various
0 possibilities.

1 Q. And what were those possibilities?

2 A. I made for myself a broad differential
3 diagnosis of things which could be causing his
4 night sweats. I was, number one, concerned about
5 infectious etiologies and requested that a CBC

Page 79

1 with differential be obtained. I also requested
2 that a chest x-ray be repeated. I was
3 additionally concerned about hematologic
4 malignancy or lymphoma, and for that reason, I
5 wanted to repeat a CBC with differential and
6 wanted to perform a chest x-ray. I was also
7 concerned about collagen vascular diseases and
8 wanted to do a chest x-ray to -- excuse
9 me -- wanted to do a chest x-ray to exclude
10 sarcoidosis as a potential cause and also
11 tuberculosis.

12 Because of the night sweats, I also
13 was concerned about the possibility of
14 hyperthyroidism and requested that a thyroid
15 function test be done. And that was the initial
16 screening that I did to consider the differential
17 diagnosis of night sweats.

18 Q. Did you take his temperature at that
19 visit or have it taken?

20 A. No, I did not. He denied fever.

21 Q. Now, was a complete blood count done
22 on him at that office visit?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What were the findings of that
25 complete blood count?

Page 80

1 A. The white blood cell count was 7.1.
2 RBC is 2.84; hemoglobin, 8.8; hematocrit, 25.9.
3 Red cell indices were performed.

4 MR. POLITO: Do you want him to read
5 everything?

6 MS. TOSTI: No. Just the beginning is
7 fine.

8 Q. So his hemoglobin and hematocrit had
9 gone down slightly since the last time you had
0 reviewed it?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And did you come to any conclusion as
3 to what was causing that?

4 A. I was quite concerned about it when I
5 saw this.

6 Q. Did you have a heightened concern that
7 it was being caused by any particular problem?

8 A. The differential diagnosis of anemia
9 was entertained and I was concerned about several
0 possible causes. They included anemia from
1 either GI or genitourinary blood loss. Since the
2 patient was on an anticoagulants, I was concerned
3 about hemolysis and hemolytic anemia with the
4 patient's history of prosthetic valve. I knew
5 the patient also had a history of sickle cell

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p> <p>1 trait. While sickle cell trait under usual 2 circumstances doesn't cause anemia, it was still 3 in my mind. 4 Q. Were you concerned about the 5 possibility of prosthetic valve endocarditis 6 after you did your assessment of this patient? 7 A. I was concerned about prosthetic valve 8 endocarditis for the reason that hemolytic anemia 9 can be associated with prosthetic valve 0 endocarditis. 1 Q. Now, three days after Gregory Colvin 2 saw you, he was seen again in the 3 Kaiser/Cleveland Clinic emergency room. Were you 4 notified at the time of that admission that he 5 had come into the emergency room? 6 A. No. 7 Q. Did he call you prior to going to the 8 emergency room? 9 A. No. 0 Q. Did his wife or any family member? 1 A. Are you finished with your question? 2 Q. Prior to the time he went to the ER, 3 did anybody tell you that he was going to the 4 ER? 5 A. No.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p> <p>1 Q. With the weight loss that we had 2 previously discussed. 3 A. I need to hear the question again. 4 (Record read.) 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether 7 it was appropriate to discharge him to home 8 following his 5-10-98 ER visit with the 9 complaints of fever and night sweats? 10 MR. POLITO: Objection. Go ahead, 11 doctor. 12 A. I have an opinion, yes. 13 Q. 'what is your opinion? 14 A. I would have wanted the patient 15 admitted. However, if the transesophageal echo 16 could have been done in a reasonably prompt 17 fashion, provided that blood cultures had been 18 drawn, that could also be clinically reasonable. 19 Q. What, in your opinion, is a reasonably 20 prompt transesophageal echo? 21 A. Within three days. 22 Q. Doctor, isn't it likely, if a 23 transesophageal echo had been done on May 10th of 24 98, that indications of prosthetic valve 25 endocarditis would have been evident?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p> <p>1 Q. Did you at some point learn that he 2 had gone to the emergency room on May 10th? 3 A. I was made aware of it on May 12th at 4 9:45 a.m. 5 Q. Doctor -- 6 A. I just wanted to clarify that I was 7 made aware -- yes, I was made aware of that. 8 Q. When he was seen in the emergency room 9 on the 10th, he had a fever of 100, I believe. 0 Given his prior history with the prosthetic valve 1 and all of the other things that we had 2 previously reviewed in regard to his anemia, his 3 weight loss, the things that occurred in his 4 prior hospitalization, do you think that a 5 transesophageal echo should have been done on him 6 when he presented to the emergency room or soon 7 after? 8 MR. POLITO: Well, first of all, you 9 threw kind of the weight loss in there. There 0 had been no weight loss for a period of time. 1 There was weight loss from the time of surgery to 2 the first visit, but there had been no weight 3 loss. The problem I had with the question is you 4 preface it that there was somehow some additional 5 weight loss.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p> <p>1 MR. POLITO: Is that from a 2 retrospective standpoint? I mean, because we 3 know eventually, a couple days later, it was, 4 so -- 5 MS. TOSTI: Yes. 6 A. From a retrospective analysis, yes. 7 Q. Now, at the time of his May 10th, 98 8 visit to the emergency room, his sedimentation 9 rate was 58 with a reference range of zero to 10 20. Do you have an opinion as to what was 11 causing his elevated sedimentation rate? 12 A. No, I don't. 13 Q. In this instance, doctor, is it likely 14 it was infectious endocarditis? 15 MR. POLITO: Objection. 16 A. It's a distinct possibility. 17 Q. Did Gregory Colvin call you after he 18 went to the emergency room on May 10th? Did you 19 talk with him at all? 20 MR. POLITO: On May 10th? 21 MS. TOSTI: Yes. 22 Q. After he went to the ER on May 10th, 23 did you get any phone calls from him or his 24 family? 25 A. His wife left a message on May 11th at</p>

Page 85

1 10:00 or 11:00 p.m.
 2 Q. What was the message that she left?
 3 A. The message that she left was seen
 4 last night for chest pain -- this is the
 5 transcriptionist summarizing the message. Seen
 6 last night for chest pain and SOB. States sent
 7 home and told to contact Dr. Kruithoff for future
 8 TEE procedure. Now has temperature 103.3.
 9 Denies any chest pain or pressure, does feel like
 0 he has the flu with chills, nausea, headache.
 1 Advice per PRT, parentheses, fever, end
 2 parentheses, advice to take Tylenol, retake
 3 temperature in one-half hour, and if not
 4 decreased or SX, symptoms change, or worsen, to
 5 call back. Will send message to Dr. Kruithoff
 6 about procedure. Advice ETS available to them if
 7 symptoms worsen. Will await call from Dr.
 8 Kruithoff tomorrow. Will call back if symptoms
 9 change or worsen.
 10 Q. Did you eventually receive that phone
 11 message?
 12 A. The message was left at 2051 on 5-11.
 13 I received the message at 9:45 a.m., 5-12.
 14 Q. Did you take any action as a result of
 15 receiving that message?

Page 86

1 A. Yes, I did.
 2 Q. What did you do?
 3 A. I contacted the patient by phone and
 4 reviewed the events, and I instructed him to go
 5 to the emergency room for admission to rule out
 6 endocarditis.
 7 Q. Did he give you any additional
 8 information about his condition aside from what
 9 you have just reviewed in that phone message?
 0 A. He summarized his symptoms, and they
 1 were similar to what he had recalled -- what he
 2 had -- what was in the chart from the phone
 3 message.
 4 Q. And after he went to the emergency
 5 room on May 12th, were you called by anyone at
 6 the emergency room and given information
 7 regarding their assessment of the patient?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. Who did you speak to?
 10 A. I spoke to -- I received two phone
 11 calls. I received one phone call from Aaron
 12 Smith and I received one phone call from Peter
 13 King.
 14 Q. Who is Aaron Smith?
 15 A. Aaron Smith is attending physician in

Page 87

1 in a Kaiser emergency room. And Peter King is
 2 the same.
 3 Q. And what information did they provide
 4 to you? Let me back up a minute.
 5 Did you receive both of these calls
 6 while Mr. Colvin was still in the emergency
 7 room?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. And then go back to my previous
 10 question, which was: What information did they
 11 provide to you?
 12 A. They provided me vital signs, physical
 13 examination, and they -- Aaron Smith reiterated
 14 the history that I had told him.
 15 Q. What was the plan of care for Gregory
 16 Colvin after --
 17 A. It was -- I'm sorry, finish your
 18 question.
 19 Q. What was the plan of care for Gregory
 20 Colvin after they had assessed him in the
 21 emergency room?
 22 A. They were asking me for a disposition
 23 on the patient.
 24 Q. What did you advise them of?
 25 A. I advised them to admit the patient to

Page 88

1 the internal medicine service for a diagnosis of
 2 prosthetic valve endocarditis, to perform
 3 multiple sets of blood cultures prior to
 4 initiation of antibiotics, and to perform a
 5 surface and transesophageal echocardiogram.
 6 Q. And at the time that you advised them,
 7 when did you think that those procedures would be
 8 completed?
 9 A. Well, the admission right now, right
 10 at that time, and blood cultures to start in the
 11 emergency room and the echocardiography as soon
 12 as possible, you know, within reason.
 13 Q. And in this case, what would be
 14 reasonable?
 15 A. For which?
 16 Q. For the echocardiogram,
 17 A. For the echocardiogram, I would say
 18 within 24 hours.
 19 Q. Now, after his admission on May 12th,
 20 did you see him while he was in the hospital?
 21 A. I saw him once.
 22 Q. When was that?
 23 A. I saw him on the morning of May 15th.
 24 Q. And was that a clinical visit in which
 25 you were participating in his care?

1 A. No. However, I did render
2 recommendations.
3 Q. What recommendations did you make?
4 A. I recommended that the patient be
5 transferred from H-81 to the intensive care unit
6 due to worsening congestive heart failure, and I
7 recommended that the patient have emergent open
8 heart surgery to replace his prosthetic mitral
9 valve.
10 Q. Now, did you at any time talk with the
11 surgeons in regard to your recommendations? Did
12 you talk to Dr. Saunders or any other
13 cardiothoracic people telling them your
14 impressions of this patient's condition and your
15 recommendations for surgery?
16 A. I spoke to Paul Miller, who was --
17 MR. P O L , ~ Did you talk to the
18 surgeon?
19 A. No.
20 Q. Now, you said you talked to Paul
21 Miller. He's another cardiologist; is that
22 correct?
23 A. He is one of my partners and our
24 department chief.
25 Q. You made your recommendations known to

1 Q. Did Dr. Miller ever talk to you again
2 after you made your recommendations in regard to
3 what he was doing as far as arranging for
4 surgery?
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. Was that on the 15th that you spoke
7 with him again?
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. What occurred during that
10 conversation?
11 A. I -- we both had evaluated the -- seen
12 and evaluated the patient upon the patient's
13 arrival in the intensive care unit. At that
14 time, he had initially made contact with the
15 surgical scheduling office and left his first
16 message with Dr. Saunders' secretary. Somewhat
17 later in the day, early afternoon, because I
18 believe his transfer occurred in the morning,
19 somewhere around 10:00 o'clock to the ICU,
20 sometime in the early afternoon, approximately
21 1:00 or 2:00 p.m., we again touched base when I
22 was between cases in the cath lab, which was my
23 duty for that day, and I asked him what the
24 status of the patient was and what the status of
25 getting him to the operating room was.

1 him; is that correct?
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. Did you at any time talk to anyone in
4 cardiothoracic surgery in regard to your
5 recommendations that this patient should have
6 surgery?
7 A. No.
8 Q. Do you know if Dr. Miller did?
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. Who did Dr. Miller talk to?
11 A. Dr. Miller spoke to Joyce Tedrick and
12 spoke to Dr. Saunders' secretary.
13 Q. And when did Dr. Miller do this?
14 A. Initially upon the patient's arrival
15 to the cardiac intensive care unit.
16 Q. Was that on the 15th when you saw
17 him?
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. Do you know whether Dr. Miller spoke
20 directly to a cardiothoracic surgeon about the
21 urgency of surgery for this patient?
22 A. He left two messages with Dr.
23 Saunders' secretary and spoke to the surgical
24 scheduler at least twice, if not more, during
25 that day regarding the patient's status.

1 Q. And what did Dr. Miller tell you?
2 A. He reiterated to me that he had left
3 now I believe two messages with Dr. Saunders'
4 secretary to have Dr. Saunders personally call
5 him upon his return from the operating room, and
6 that he had confirmed to me that Joyce Tedrick
7 had communicated with Dr. Saunders regarding the
8 clinical status of the patient and that the
9 patient would go to the operating room that
10 night.
11 Q. So it was your impression that he
12 would have surgery the evening of the 15th;
13 correct?
14 A. That's correct.
15 Q. Is there a particular reason why Dr.
16 Miller was contacting Dr. Saunders?
17 A. Because Dr. Saunders was the surgeon
18 who was going to operate on the patient.
19 Q. I'm just wondering why Dr. Saunders
20 and not another physician at Cleveland Clinic.
21 A. When the patient came in, he was
22 evaluated by the surgical scheduler, and the
23 specific reason why Dr. Saunders is because Dr.
24 Saunders did the patient's original surgery on
25 May 4th and was the physician of record.

Page 93

1 MR. POLITO: February 4th.
 2 Q. On February 4th.
 3 A. Thank you for the correction.
 4 February 4th, and was the surgeon who was to
 5 perform the repeat surgery.
 6 Q. Now, what is your understanding as to
 7 what happened with Gregory Colvin during that
 8 last admission?
 9 MR. POLITO: At what point?
 10 Q. He did not go to surgery on the 15th;
 11 correct?
 12 A. Yes, correct.
 13 Q. Is it your understanding the reason
 14 that he did not go was because Dr. Saunders was
 15 not provided with appropriate information by his
 16 secretary or the scheduler?
 17 MR. SKIVER: Objection. Go ahead.
 18 MR. POLITO: Objection. Go ahead.
 19 A. Just for the record, I want you to
 20 repeat the question.
 21 (Record read.)
 22 Q. And I'm speaking of surgery on May
 23 15th.
 24 A. That's my conclusion, yes.
 25 Q. Now, he did not go to surgery on that

Page 94

1 date. What happened in regard to his physical
 2 condition after the 15th?
 3 A. I learned about what had happened to
 4 Mr. Colvin and his course not until Monday when I
 5 returned from the weekend.
 6 Q. What did you learn on Monday then?
 7 A. I had spoke to Dr. Miller, and I had
 8 found that the patient had died on Sunday
 9 morning, and that he had never gone to surgery.
 10 Q. When you received that information,
 11 did you take any action?
 12 A. I -- can you define action?
 13 Q. Once you received that information
 14 that he had not gone to surgery, did you take any
 15 action, do anything, as a result of that
 16 information?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. What did you do?
 19 A. I went to Dr. Saunders' office, and I
 20 asked to have a meeting with Dr. Saunders'
 21 secretary, with Dr. Saunders.
 22 Q. And did you have that meeting?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. What occurred at that meeting?
 25 A. I was called by Dr. Saunders'

Page 95

1 secretary to tell me that Dr. Saunders was
 2 available to meet with me, and I went to his
 3 office and had an approximately 15, 20, maybe
 4 even longer, minute discussion with Dr. Saunders.
 5 Q. Was this on Monday?
 6 A. I believe it was on Tuesday, but it
 7 may have been within a couple days of that
 8 specific day.
 9 Q. The people in attendance at that
 10 meeting was you, Dr. Saunders, and was his
 11 secretary there?
 12 A. No. It was in Dr. Saunders' office.
 13 The people who were present were me and Dr.
 14 Saunders only.
 15 Q. What was the content of the discussion
 16 that you had with Dr. Saunders at that meeting?
 17 A. I asked Dr. Saunders why he didn't
 18 operate on my patient on Friday, May 15th, and --
 19 that was what I asked him.
 20 Q. What did he respond?
 21 A. He responded that he had received
 22 false information from the surgical scheduler
 23 regarding the status of the patient, and that he
 24 erroneously relied on that information and didn't
 25 evaluate the patient himself. He admitted full

Page 96

1 responsibility for the consequences of what
 2 happened, and he said it was an error in his
 3 judgment not to take the patient to surgery that
 4 day.
 5 He subsequently told me in an
 6 extremely open, nonconfrontational way, the
 7 circumstances which occurred on Saturday morning
 8 after the time of his arrest. He also told me of
 9 his frustration with the triaging system of
 10 scheduling surgical patients at the Cleveland
 11 Clinic,
 12 Q. And what was his frustration with the
 13 triage system?
 14 A. He stated that the triage system of
 15 having the surgical scheduler schedule the
 16 patients for surgery was a poor one, and that it
 17 was, quote, the nail in the coffin as to why he
 18 was leaving the Cleveland Clinic, and this case
 19 had conclusively made up his mind to leave the
 20 Cleveland Clinic.
 21 Q. Do you think that Dr. Saunders should
 22 have come to the hospital and evaluated Gregory
 23 Colvin himself on May 15th when the
 24 recommendation for surgery was made?
 25 A. Dr. Saunders was at the hospital on

1 May 15th.

2 Q. Did he evaluate Gregory Colvin himself
3 on that date?

4 A. No.

5 Q. My question was: Do you think he
6 should have evaluated Gregory Colvin on May 15th
7 after the recommendation for surgery was made?

8 MR. POLITO: Objection.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. The surgical scheduler that you're
11 talking about is Joyce Tedrick?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And the secretary that you had
14 previously referenced, what is her name?

15 A. I do not know.

16 Q. Aside from the conversation that you
17 had with Dr. Saunders on that Monday or Tuesday,
18 did you discuss the problem of Gregory Colvin not
19 going to surgery on the 15th with anyone else?

20 A. No, excepting Dr. Miller.

21 Q. Did you make any type of complaint to
22 anyone in administration at Cleveland Clinic
23 regarding the scheduling problem that Dr.
24 Saunders told you about?

25 A. No, I did not.

1 Q. Do you know if Dr. Saunders did?

2 A. I donotknow.

3 Q. Do you have an opinion when Gregory
4 Colvin developed bacterial endocarditis?

5 A. Possibly sometime between April 23rd
6 and the time of diagnosis on May 13th.

7 Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether
8 the stitch abscess that he had during his prior
9 admission of 2-23 had any relationship to his
10 later development of prosthetic valve
11 endocarditis?

12 A. The two may be correlated.

13 Q. After Gregory Colvin's death, did you
14 talk to the family at any time?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. When did you do that?

17 A. Mrs. Colvin called me approximately
18 two weeks after Greg's death.

19 Q. And why did she call you? Rather,
20 what was the content of the conversation?

21 A. She had asked me -- I don't remember
22 the conversation real well. I believe that she
23 was calling to, you know, find out the
24 circumstances of his illness.

25 Q. And what did you tell her?

1 A. I told her that -- again, I don't

2 remember specifically what I told her. We
3 chatted for a few minutes. I asked her how she
4 was, I asked her how the kids were. I stated
5 that, you know, it was a terrible tragedy that
6 Greg had died, and that he had a very aggressive
7 infection of his heart valve, and that most
8 likely the heart valve broke and it resulted in
9 his immediate death.

0 Q. Did you tell her about your
1 conversations with Dr. Saunders in regard to the
2 scheduling problem, getting her husband into
3 surgery?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Is there a reason why you didn't tell
6 her that?

7 A. I felt that it wasn't appropriate.

8 Q. Why is that?

9 A. I felt that it wouldn't bring Greg
0 back.

1 Q. Do you have an opinion as to a point
2 in time when his condition was irreversible?

3 MR. POLITO: Objection.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What's your opinion?

1 A. My opinion as to when his clinical
2 status was irreversible was on Saturday, May
3 16th, following his prolonged resuscitation of
4 over one hour and 17 minutes.

5 Q. So there was a window of opportunity
6 then for successful treatment if he would have
7 gone to surgery on May 15th then; correct,
8 doctor?

9 MR. POLITO: Objection.

0 Q. At least in your opinion.

1 A. I want the question repeated.

2 (Record read.)

3 A. I want you to be more specific in your
4 question.

5 Q. By successful?

6 A. It's sort of vague.

7 Q. I mean that he would have survived the
8 surgery.

9 MR. POLITO: Objection.

0 MR. SKIVER: Objection. Go ahead.

1 A. I think that Greg was critically ill.

2 I think that, regardless of whether he had gone
3 to surgery or not on May 15th, there was no
4 guarantee that he would have lived either in the
5 short term or the long term. I think that his

Page 101

1 operative mortality was high if he were to have
2 gone on May 15th, but it was probably the only
3 window of opportunity for saving him. The actual
4 surgical mortality, I can't quote, but he was
5 still critically ill on May 15th.

6 Q. Do you have an opinion as to what
7 ultimately caused his death?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What's that?

0 A. Valvular dehiscence, mitral valvular
1 dehiscence, and acute congestive heart failure
2 resulting from mechanical disruption of his
3 mitral valve from endocarditis.

4 Q. If Gregory Colvin's prosthetic valve
5 endocarditis had been treated successfully, do
6 you have an opinion as to what his reasonable
7 life expectancy would have been?

8 MR. POLITO: Objection.

9 A. I don't profess to be an expert on
10 infectious diseases, so I can't answer with great
11 certainty, but I think there's a, you know, a
12 reasonable degree of confidence that he had
13 probably greater than at least a 70 to 80 percent
14 chance of living five years.

15 Q. Do you have any criticism of any of

Page 102

1 the care that was rendered to Gregory Colvin?

2 MR. POLITO: Objection.

3 A. When?

4 Q. At any point from the time that he had
5 his valve surgery until the time of his death.

6 A. My biggest criticism is him not being
7 taken to surgery in a timely fashion on May 14th
8 or 15th. I have criticism that following his
9 discharge on February 27th that he either did not
0 receive or did not comply with his recommended
1 followup.

2 Q. In what way?

3 A. I don't know whether -- I can't say
4 yes or no whether he received specific blood draw
5 slips to return for blood cultures, for example,
6 and I wish that his discharge physicians would
7 have called me to tell me about more of the
8 details of his hospitalization during that time.

9 Q. Why do you wish they would have given
10 you more detail?

11 A. I think if they truly requested the
12 followup as they indicated, they did a poor job
13 of arranging that,

14 Q. And aside from what you just mentioned
15 in regard to the blood draw slips, do you blame

Page 103

1 Gregory Colvin in any way for the complications
2 that he suffered?

3 A. When I saw Gregory Colvin on March
4 18th, I had asked him whether he had gone for
5 blood cultures as was recommended, and he was not
6 complying, and he said he didn't feel it was
7 necessary. So I think that at times he didn't
8 demonstrate complete compliance with what was
9 recommended by his treating physicians.

10 Q. Did you ask him if he was given blood
11 draw slips at that time?

12 A. I don't recall asking him that, no.

13 Q. Did you ask him if he was told to go
14 for blood cultures?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did he say he was told to go for blood
17 cultures?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And he didn't say whether or not he
20 had any type of requisitions for those blood
21 cultures, though; correct?

22 A. No.

23 MS. TOSTI: Doctor, I don't have any
24 further questions.

25 MS. CARULAS: I don't have any

Page 104

1 questions.

2 MR. SKIVER: I have no questions.

3 MR. POLITO: He'll want to read it.

4 (Signature not waived.)

5 (Deposition concluded at 12:14 o'clock p.m.)

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Page 105

1 AFFIDAVIT

2 I have read the foregoing transcript from
 3 page 1 through 104 and note the following
 4 corrections:

5 PAGE LINE REQUESTED CHANGE

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 KEITH KRUTHOFF, M.D.

9

0 Subscribed and sworn to before me this

1 _____ day of _____, 2000.

2

3

4

 Notary Public

5 My commission expires _____

Page 106

1 CERTIFICATE

2 State of Ohio, }
 3 County of Cuyahoga. } ss:

4

5 I, Karen M. Patterson, a Notary Public
 within and for the State of Ohio, duly
 6 commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify
 that the within named KEITH KRUTHOFF, M.D. was
 7 by me first duly sworn to testify to the truth,
 the whole truth and nothing but the truth in the
 8 cause aforesaid; that the testimony as above set
 forth was by me reduced to stenotypy, afterwards
 9 transcribed, and that the foregoing is a true and
 correct transcription of the testimony.

0

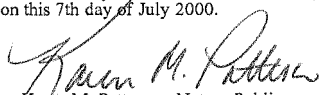
I do further certify that this deposition
 1 was taken at the time and place specified and was
 completed without adjournment; that I am not a
 2 relative or attorney for either party or
 otherwise interested in the event of this action.

3

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
 4 hand and affixed my seal of office at Cleveland,
 Ohio, on this 7th day of July 2000.

5

6


 Karen M. Patterson, Notary Public
 Within and for the State of Ohio

8

My commission expires October 7, 2004

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-1-	-2-	53:24 92:25 93:1 93:2 93:4	73:22 74:2 98:8 abstract[7] 13:22 14:1 14:6 14:11 14:17 25:13 25:18	88:6 AFFIDAVIT[1] 105:1
1[4] 10:3 10:5 10:25 105:3	2-23[1] 98:9 2-4-98[1] 78:5	-5- 55-10-98[1] 83:8	abuse[2] 9:11	affixed[1] 106:14
10[1] 3:24	2.84[1] 80:2	55-11[1] 85:22	accepted[1] 19:13	aforesaid[1] 106:8
10-11-97[1] 42:23	2/23[4] 72:15 72:23 72:24 73:5	55-12[1] 85:23	According[1] 22:3	afternoon[2] 91:17
10.1[1] 64:2	2/27[2] 72:16 72:24	526[1] 2:14	accuracy[2] 17:10	afterwards[1] 106:8
100[1] 82:9	20[2] 84:10 95:3	58[1] 84:9	24:7	again[14] 25:17
101[1] 56:6	2000[3] 1:14 105:21 106:14	-6- 60[2] 29:6 29:16	iaccurate[1] 16:21	39:1 41:3 41:12
103.3[1] 85:8	2004[1] 106:18	623-0150[1] 2:20	action[6] 35:14	42:5 54:22 62:25
104[1] 105:3	2051[1] 85:22	660[1] 2:4	85:24 94:11 94:12 94:15 106:12	78:11 81:12 83:3
10:00[2] 85:1	20th[1] 76:21	666-3417[1] 2:10	iactive[1] 33:18	91:1 91:7 91:21
10th[15] 43:9 47:18 48:4 54:17 54:20 55:3 55:3 55:11 82:2 82:9 83:23 84:7 84:18 84:20	216[3] 2:6 2:15 2:20	-7- 7[1] 106:18	iactual[4] 32:24 33:24 41:25 101:3	99:1
11:00[1] 85:1	21st[1] 77:1	7[1] 106:18	iacity[1] 24:10	against[1] 37:15
11th[1] 84:25	22nd[4] 76:16 76:17 76:18 76:25	7.1[1] 80:1	iacute[1] 101:11	age[1] 3:1
12301[1] 4:4	23rd[12] 54:14 55:14 55:21 59:17 64:15 64:17 65:5 65:25 66:16 76:7 76:10 98:5	70[1] 101:23	add[1] 34:17	aggressive[1] 99:6
12:14[1] 104:5	24[1] 88:18	7th[7] 47:17 48:5 75:17 78:8 78:12 78:14 106:14	addition[5] 32:15 44:15 64:23 76:8 76:11	agree[16] 17:13 27:1 31:16 39:21 40:3 40:5 50:24 58:10 61:13 64:3 66:18 66:24 67:4 67:12 69:22 77:9
12th[4] 75:20 82:3 86:15 88:19	241-2600[1] 2:6	-8- 13.8[1] 80:2	additional[6] 38:23 55:11 63:12 64:12 82:24 86:7	agreed[1] 24:10
1375[1] 2:19	24th[2] 60:5 62:9	80[1] 101:23	additionally[4] 32:7 49:6 61:8 79:3	ahead[24] 4:23 12:24 13:6 16:23 17:9 17:14 18:14 19:18 20:3 22:11 23:4 23:9 27:5 27:21 36:21 58:21 67:18 68:18 75:14 77:13 83:10 93:17 93:18 100:20
13th[1] 98:6	25.9[1] 80:2	1575-2767[1] 2:15	additions[1] 11:2	AL[1] 1:10
11400[2] 1:23 2:14	26th[1] 64:1	8th[7] 47:18 48:5 48:12 50:10 50:14 55:4 75:17	address[3] 3:12 3:23 4:3	allegation[4] 7:15 7:17 8:7 9:7
14th[1] 102:7	27th[9] 53:25 62:9 64:15 70:4 70:19 71:9 71:16 76:8 102:9	-9- 9.4[1] 55:7	adjacent[2] 32:21 32:21	alleged[1] 7:19
115[1] 95:3	29.1[1] 77:3	9.7[1] 77:3	adjournment[1] 106:11	analysis[1] 84:6
1154.2[1] 78:10	2:00[1] 91:21	90[1] 25:3	administration[1] 97:22	anchored[1] 32:18
155.8 III 78:7	2nd[1] 2:5	94[1] 13:18	ADMINISTRATOR [1] 1:4	anchoring[1] 66:20
15th[24] 19:9 19:15 19:17 19:21 21:15 23:18 24:1 88:23 90:16 91:6 92:12 93:10 93:23 94:2 95:18 96:23 97:1 97:6 97:19 100:7 100:23 101:2 101:5 102:8	-3- 3-18[2] 76:13 76:14 3-18-98[1] 78:7	98[6] 12:11 72:5 75:20 77:1 83:24 84:7	admission[27] 24:1 42:23 45:13 52:7 52:23 53:21 55:15 57:7 59:17 64:17 65:6 65:12 65:15 65:19 65:23 65:25 66:4 73:5 73:12 75:14 78:4 81:14 86:5 88:9 88:19 93:8 98:9	Address[1] 2:18
11660[1] 2:5	30[1] 1:14	99[1] 69:13	admissions[2] 15:8 15:9	anemia[14] 30:17 30:21 64:7 64:9 64:11 65:4 75:2 77:10 80:18 80:20 80:23 81:2 81:8 82:12
16th[1] 100:3	30.5[1] 64:3	9:35[1] 1:24	admit[1] 87:25	anemic[1] 64:4
17[1] 100:4	30025[1] 2:9	9:45[2] 82:4 85:23	admitted[8] 16:15 55:13 56:22 58:15 72:15 72:23 83:15 95:25	anesthesia[1] 46:3
17th[2] 20:15 69:12	30th[1] 42:17	9th[2] 2:19 55:10	admitting[2] 12:14 12:19	angioplasties[2] 26:15 48:1
1183[1] 78:5	3305[1] 3:13	-A- a.m[3] 1:24 82:4 85:23	advice[6] 41:2 69:13 69:14 85:11 85:12 85:16	angioplasty[2] 46:21 47:4
118th[14] 54:7 54:15 61:10 66:10 66:13 69:9 69:14 69:18 72:5 74:13 74:17 74:19 75:24 103:4	388614[1] 1:10	Aaron[4] 86:21 86:24 86:25 87:13	advise[1] 87:24	ANNA[1] 2:18
19[1] 13:17	-4- 419[1] 2:10	ability[3] 34:18 34:25 35:1	advised[2] 87:25	annular[1] 32:21
1993[2] 8:24 24:24	44113[1] 2:5	able[2] 5:16 14:13		annuloplasty[1] 45:23
1994[3] 8:4 11:24 13:16	44114[1] 2:19	above[2] 1:25 106:8		annulus[3] 32:19 33:9 60:12
1997[3] 7:1 12:11 42:17	44114-1491[1] 2:15	abscess[13] 32:9 38:3 65:7 65:11 65:19 66:14 67:7 67:12 67:22 68:11		Anorexia[1] 31:1
1998[5] 15:2 16:10 47:3 75:17 76:16	44120[1] 3:16			answer[20] 4:24 5:16 6:4 16:24 25:16 40:22 40:23 40:24 41:1 41:3
19th[1] 54:13	44128[1] 3:25			
1:00[1] 91:21	44130[1] 4:5			
	49-year-old[1] 43:5			
	4th[7] 45:14 52:22			

41:8 41:11 41:14 42:4 51:4 68:5 68:20 73:10 73:13 101:20 answered[10] 13:6 40:16 40:22 40:25 41:14 58:23 62:2 68:4 68:6 77:13 answers[1] 5:18 anterior[1] 60:12 anti-coagulation [1] 44:2 antibiotics [3] 37:14 39:23 88:4 anticoagulants [1] 80:22 apparatus [1] 34:2 APPEARANCES[1] 2:1 appeared[1] 61:7 appetite[1] 58:1 appreciable[1] 78:9 appreciate[1] 35:22 appropriate[7] 31:10 36:11 36:22 36:23 83:7 93:15 99:17 April[6] 76:16 76:17 76:18 76:20 77:1 98:5 area [1] 39:3 argument[1] 29:17 arrange[1] 44:5 arranging[2] 91:3 102:23 arrest[1] 96:8 arrival [2] 90:14 91:13 aside[4] 45:25 86:8 97:16 102:24 assess [2] 27:19 42:25 assessed[1] 87:20 assessing [1] 27:7 assessment[6] 43:2 43:4 43:20 78:4 81:6 86:17 associated [6] 30:5 30:16 30:17 31:22 77:10 81:9 assume[1] 5:15 atelectasis [1] 48:24 atenolol[1] 43:25 atrial[6] 43:9 43:10 43:12 44:1 44:21 75:2 attendance [1] 95:9 attending [3] 11:22 57:6 86:25 attorney[3] 7:23 8:15 106:12 attorneys [2] 6:3 18:10 audiotape [1] 13:21	authoritative[1] 17:1 authors [1] 29:23 available [6] 37:20 39:18 61:9 63:1 85:16 95:2 Avenue[1] 2:14 await[1] 85:17 aware[10] 38:23 46:1 65:11 65:18 66:14 77:21 78:2 82:3 82:7 82:7 away [1] 18:25 -B- background [2] 9:24 11:12 bacteremia [4] 36:15 37:15 38:1 49:8 bacteria [2] 26:25 33:7 bacterial [16] 13:3 13:12 24:20 27:2 27:10 27:18 30:9 30:17 31:4 31:18 36:18 40:6 49:18 69:22 72:25 98:4 base [1] 91:21 based [5] 44:14 51:7 58:6 73:6 76:5 basis [5] 23:25 51:13 53:10 63:16 70:9 Becker[1] 2:3 become [3] 32:19 32:25 33:1 becomes [1] 29:5 becoming[1] 43:16 began [1] 48:7 beginning [3] 66:15 72:23 80:6 begins [1] 72:15 behalf [4] 2:2 2:7 2:11 2:16 benefit [1] 45:23 benign [2] 60:14 61:7 best [1] 35:14 between[7] 28:21 53:24 74:11 74:16 76:7 91:22 98:5 biggest[1] 102:6 bit [5] 3:18 9:24 11:15 35:19 38:16 blame [1] 102:25 block [4] 32:10 34:9 38:5 72:20 blood [45] 30:14 31:12 36:12 36:14 36:24 37:6 37:16 49:7 49:23 49:25 50:6 50:17 51:13 51:21 55:6 55:7	55:10 55:11 64:18 64:21 64:22 64:23 71:7 71:12 71:21 71:24 75:23 76:6 76:9 76:10 79:21 79:25 80:1 80:21 83:17 88:3 88:10 102:14 102:15 102:25 103:5 103:10 103:14 103:16 103:20 board [3] 10:10 10:13 10:16 body [1] 57:25 Bonezzi [2] 1:22 2:12 border [1] 75:5 bottom [2] 72:14 72:20 Braunwald [1] 17:4 Braunwald's [5] 15:2 15:5 16:20 16:20 17:7 break [4] 21:5 68:19 68:22 70:15 briefly [1] 66:2 bring [2] 9:25 99:19 broad [1] 78:22 broke [1] 99:8 brought [1] 56:22 Building [2] 1:24 2:14 business [2] 3:22 4:2 bypass [1] 45:18 -C- calls [4] 59:25 84:23 86:21 87:5 candidate [1] 45:10 capacity [1] 4:21 cardiac [13] 7:21 22:13 26:14 26:17 26:20 26:24 34:19 35:2 44:6 44:11 47:5 62:21 90:15 cardiologist [8] 12:9 23:24 40:15 45:2 46:10 71:1 71:4 89:21 cardiologists [2] 41:16 47:8 cardiology [8] 10:14 11:24 12:2 23:24 26:7 26:12 46:16 70:25 cardiopulmonary [1] 45:17 cardiothoracic [10] 39:2 46:22 46:24 47:1 53:1 53:5 53:14 89:13 90:4 90:20 cardiotomy [2] 74:5	74:7 Cardiovascular [1] 15:5 cardioversion [1] 76:25 care [13] 4:1 4:6 15:16 65:15 66:1 66:19 87:15 87:19 88:25 89:5 90:15 91:13 102:1 cared [2] 26:10 42:14 careful [1] 52:4 caring [2] 41:20 57:6 CARULAS [3] 2:18 63:21 103:25 case [40] 1:8 6:24 7:2 7:3 7:5 7:6 7:9 7:23 8:1 8:2 8:8 8:12 8:15 8:21 9:8 9:11 9:14 9:18 9:21 11:10 17:4 17:7 17:22 17:23 18:1 18:5 18:8 19:23 29:11 29:18 48:19 48:21 49:10 52:6 52:20 58:11 61:3 61:19 88:13 96:18 cases [4] 6:21 28:12 28:15 91:22 catastrophic [1] 69:2 cath [3] 44:11 48:3 91:22 catheter [4] 52:16 52:22 66:20 66:21 catheterization [2] 44:6 47:6 catheterizations [2] 26:14 26:17 catheters [1] 52:12 caused [3] 22:15 80:17 101:7 causes [2] 48:14 80:20 causing [6] 64:9 74:23 78:18 78:23 80:13 84:11 caution [1] 69:4 CBC [4] 50:9 51:5 78:25 79:5 cc's [1] 67:13 cell [7] 50:1 50:6 55:7 80:1 80:3 80:25 81:1 Center [5] 12:1 12:15 14:23 25:1 25:24 central [4] 52:12 52:16 52:21 66:20 cerebral [1] 32:4 certain [2] 35:21	60:14 certainly [1] 49:9 certainty [1] 101:21 CERTIFICATE [1] 106:1 certifications [1] 10:17 certified [3] 3:4 10:10 10:13 certify [2] 106:6 106:10 chance [1] 101:24 change [8] 48:25 61:23 62:12 63:6 78:9 85:14 85:19 105:5 changed [1] 61:11 changes [2] 60:19 68:2 chapters [1] 15:3 character [1] 63:14 characteristic [2] 30:13 31:14 Charms [1] 7:24 chart [4] 14:22 25:2 66:6 86:12 chatted [1] 99:3 checkup [1] 28:2 chest [9] 51:21 55:4 79:2 79:6 79:8 79:9 85:4 85:6 85:9 chief [1] 89:24 child [2] 9:11 9:21 chills [2] 57:20 85:10 choose [1] 6:3 chordae [1] 34:5 Circle [1] 3:24 circulation [1] 32:4 circumstances [4] 39:7 81:2 96:7 98:24 City [1] 8:1 Civil [1] 3:3 claim [1] 39:3 clarify [2] 34:11 82:6 clarity [1] 35:20 classic [1] 29:5 clear [2] 61:20 63:17 cleared [1] 38:1 clearly [1] 67:24 Cleveland [29] 1:24 2:5 2:7 2:15 2:19 3:24 12:13 12:17 14:20 14:23 15:7 15:11 15:12 15:18 15:20 45:2 45:13 46:7 53:6 71:8 71:16 75:21 78:4 92:20 96:10 96:18 96:20 97:22
--	---	--	--	---

Index Page 3

1:164:154:204:2210:214:1960:7104:5106:10

depositions[1]5:8

describe[1]11:14

destruction[6]31:2431:2432:2333:2534:134:4

detail[4]11:1534:1835:3102:20

details[1]102:18

determine[4]60:1861:2262:1268:1

determined[1]68:14

developed[1]98:4

development[2]34:898:10

diagnose[3]7:218:936:6

diagnosed[1]29:23

diagnoses[1]68:25

diagnosis[25]14:525:525:929:1531:731:931:1833:1836:436:1137:237:740:448:1649:1251:1954:2363:1068:2378:2379:1780:1888:198:6

diagnostic[2]26:1743:18

DIANE[1]1:4

diary[1]70:2

died[4]20:1421:694:899:6

differ[1]31:4

different[1]44:13

differential[15]48:1549:1249:2250:1050:2150:2150:2551:751:1854:2378:2279:179:579:1680:18

differentials[1]51:14

direct[4]32:734:634:738:2

directed[2]37:1551:17

directions[1]6:6

directly[1]90:20

disagree[2]69:775:18

discerned[1]73:15

discharge[20]15:1453:953:1453:2059:962:1063:2570:370:1871:271:871:1271:1673:774:1274:1675:2083:7102:9102:16

discharged[5]51:15

54:1062:964:465:17

discharging[1]71:23

discuss[1]97:18

discussed[4]17:2318:168:783:2

discussion[3]42:1695:495:15

disease[11]15:427:1432:938:443:643:1144:1844:2071:1873:873:20

diseases[3]15:579:7101:20

disposition[1]87:22

disruption[1]101:12

distinct[1]84:16

divided[1]46:14

doctor[56]3:83:173:205:36:87:259:2310:711:713:116:2420:224:1826:627:127:2132:1134:1038:2340:1240:2040:2341:141:441:941:1242:1843:349:2151:955:1256:2458:1858:2258:2463:365:2466:1867:2068:1068:1868:2169:170:1572:472:1175:1575:2377:977:1382:583:1183:2284:13100:8103:23

doctor's[2]16:1719:2

document[7]10:2011:356:856:956:1356:1569:11

documentation[4]15:2431:1131:1156:10

documentations[1]14:25

documented[3]22:2075:975:16

doesn't[3]16:538:681:2

ion'[1]62:5

done[30]13:1525:2335:1738:1738:2550:1052:754:2454:2557:257:1258:1558:1659:1760:664:2171:872:274:1575:2476:2076:2176:2376:2477:279:1579:2182:1583:1683:23

Dorchester[1]3:13

dose[1]43:25

down[7]3:195:1921:536:1364:277:680:9

Dr[69]18:1518:1719:619:1119:1319:2020:1120:2021:221:721:1422:322:2523:223:1223:2324:424:1329:2030:245:157:457:863:2470:2475:1885:785:1585:1789:1290:890:1090:1190:1290:1390:1990:2291:191:692:192:392:492:792:1592:1692:1792:1992:2392:2393:1494:794:1994:2094:2194:2595:195:495:1095:1295:1395:1695:1796:2196:2597:1797:2097:2398:199:11

drainage[3]65:967:768:8

draw[3]102:14102:25103:11

drawn[4]64:1964:2464:2483:18

draws[2]64:2164:23

drop[1]65:2

due[2]73:1789:6

duly[3]3:3106:5106:7

duplicate[1]15:19

during[24]11:1812:224:152:752:2254:257:664:1464:1464:2565:565:1165:1565:1965:2265:2466:1473:573:1190:2491:993:798:8102:18

duty[1]91:23

-E-

E[1]2:9

early[9]7:128:2329:1229:1829:2129:2575:491:1791:20

East[1]2:19

echo[38]34:1234:1535:1644:1058:1158:2559:359:1660:260:560:1060:1160:1560:1961:2261:2362:1162:1162:1262:2163:363:4

63:663:863:1263:1463:1767:2367:2468:168:1268:1368:1669:582:1583:1583:2083:23

echocardiogram[20]25:425:925:2025:2135:435:2335:2436:336:1736:2043:2444:1445:1951:2262:862:1562:1788:588:1688:17

echocardiograms[2]26:1874:15

echocardiographer[1]63:20

echocardiographic[1]31:17

echocardiography[11]14:425:825:1530:1533:1334:2436:959:1462:1963:988:11

edition[1]15:4

effusion[2]49:355:5

either[11]6:2115:1733:833:1847:471:2472:280:21100:24102:9106:12

EKG[2]76:2076:22

elevated[3]49:2451:384:11

elevation[2]48:851:10

emboli[1]32:3

embolic[2]32:238:5

embolism[2]33:22

embolization[1]32:5

embolize[1]32:4

emergency[28]11:1411:1911:2212:542:2242:2355:1356:2256:2557:357:557:776:981:1381:1581:1882:282:882:1684:884:1886:586:1486:1687:187:687:2188:1188:12

emergent[3]24:1224:1589:7

Emin[1]45:1

emitting[1]67:13

emphasizing[1]52:1

employer[2]4:7

encounter[1]56:11

end[2]3:1985:11

endocarditis[83]13:413:1314:515:324:2025:525:1025:1526:2226:2327:327:1027:1927:2428:528:928:1728:2429:129:329:529:829:1029:1329:1929:2229:2330:130:930:1230:1630:1831:431:831:1931:2233:433:1933:2034:1435:1436:436:736:1936:2437:337:737:1037:2237:2339:1039:1339:2240:440:740:1341:541:2149:949:1956:2358:858:1361:1463:763:1167:669:369:2372:2573:477:1181:581:881:1083:2584:1486:688:298:498:11101:13101:15

entailed[1]11:16

enter[1]6:3

entertained[2]36:580:19

entirety[1]64:18

entity[2]4:1227:14

ER[4]81:2281:2483:884:22

Ernest[2]7:10

err[1]69:4

erroneously[3]21:2221:2395:24

error[2]66:2596:2

erythrocyte[1]30:23

ESQ[4]2:42:82:132:18

essentially[2]32:2357:11

ESTATE[1]1:5

ET[1]1:10

etiologies[1]78:25

ETS[1]85:16

Eugene[1]15:2

c:valuatq[2]95:2597:2

evaluated[6]24:891:1191:1292:2296:2297:6

c:valuation[5]45:757:257:758:1263:1

evening[1]92:12

c:vent[1]106:12

c:vents[1]86:4

eventually [2] 84:3 85:20	fatigue [3] 40:8 73:1 74:20	fluctuations [1] 69:23	gentleman [1] 43:5	37:24 37:25 38:4
evidence [2] 38:2 43:6	favor [1] 3:17	follow [3] 46:8 70:20 70:23	ghost [3] 14:24 15:12 15:13	43:6 43:11 44:18
evidenced [1] 38:4	February [38] 15:1 16:8 16:10 45:14	followed [1] 51:12	GI [1] 80:21	44:20 53:20 54:11
evident [1] 83:25	47:17 47:18 47:18	following [11] 11:19 18:20 20:16 42:22	given [16] 9:13 13:11 60:22 61:14	64:12 75:1 89:6
exam [2] 57:16	50:10 50:14 52:22	45:18 53:14 77:16	61:19 61:24 67:4	89:8 99:7 99:8
examination [7] 57:18	53:24 53:24 54:14	83:8 100:3 102:8	67:20 68:4 68:10	101:11
1:18 3:2 3:6	54:17 54:20 55:10	105:3	68:16 69:13 82:10	heightened [2] 27:18
52:4 57:12 57:14	55:11 55:13 55:21	follows [1] 3:5	86:16 102:19 103:10	80:16
87:13	60:5 64:1 64:14	followup [17] 46:12 60:14 60:18 60:20	Glick [2] 57:4	Heights [5] 3:13
examined [1] 75:3	64:17 65:5 65:25	60:25 61:21 63:2	gone [10] 19:17 19:24 80:9 82:2	3:25 14:23 15:11
example [3] 35:21	75:17 75:17 75:20	63:20 68:15 69:4	94:9 94:14 100:7	15:13
39:8 102:15	76:7 76:7 76:10	71:1 71:5 71:15	100:22 101:2 103:4	helpful [3] 16:21
excepting [2] 57:17	93:1 93:2 93:4	76:13 78:7 102:11	gradually [1] 43:15	31:17 51:22
97:20	fellowship [2] 11:24 12:3	102:22	great [2] 35:20 101:20	hematocrit [7] 64:3
exclude [1] 79:9	felt [6] 29:20 41:22 43:9 45:22 99:17	Foot [1] 11:20	greater [4] 29:6 29:16 35:2 101:23	64:13 77:2 77:3
exclusively [2] 46:9	99:19	foregoing [2] 105:2 106:9	Greg [3] 99:6 99:19	77:6 80:2 80:8
excuse [2] 47:11	fever [25] 30:14 31:11 38:6 40:8	form [2] 13:20 33:7	100:21	hematologic [1] 79:3
Exhibit [3] 10:3	48:9 48:13 48:15	formal [1] 13:11	Greg's [1] 98:18	hemoglobin [6] 64:2
10:5 10:25	48:16 48:21 56:5	formation [2] 32:9 38:3	Gregory [43] 1:5	77:2 77:2 77:5
expansion [1] 49:2	57:20 60:24 61:24	forms [1] 37:12	4:2 4:7 16:4	80:2 80:8
expectancy [1] 101:17	67:4 67:21 68:12	forth [2] 1:25 106:8	19:16 26:10 29:11	hemoglobin/hematocrit [1] 65:2
expert [7] 5:1	68:14 69:13 73:14	found [6] 15:20 18:7 31:13 31:15	42:10 42:14 42:19	hemolysis [1] 80:23
5:5 8:18 8:23	73:19 74:7 79:20	75:4 94:8	45:11 48:7 48:19	hemolytic [2] 80:23
9:9 39:3 101:19	82:9 83:9 85:11	Foundation [5] 2:7 12:13 12:17 15:7	52:5 52:9 52:20	81:8
expertise [1] 38:19	fevers [3] 61:16 69:8 69:11	78:4	53:8 53:19 55:12	hereby [1] 106:6
expires [2] 105:25	few [3] 5:7 10:21 99:3	four [5] 22:21 28:21 37:17 44:19 53:13	58:10 60:17 61:13	herein [1] 1:17
explain [2] 35:19	fibrillation [6] 43:9 43:10 43:13 44:1	free [3] 5:25 43:3 68:21	64:1 65:6 74:10	hereinafter [1] 3:4
expressed [1] 65:10	44:22 75:2	frequency [1] 34:25	75:3 76:15 77:15	hereunto [1] 106:13
extended [1] 43:15	fibrin [1] 33:7	Friday [2] 1:14 95:18	81:11 84:17 87:15	high [7] 27:2 40:6
extremely [1] 96:6	field [1] 26:7	frustration [2] 96:9 96:12	87:19 93:7 96:22	58:7 61:14 67:5
	file [5] 14:24 15:12 15:13 15:19 18:5	full [3] 11:20 19:14 95:25	97:2 97:6 97:18	67:14 101:1
	filed [6] 6:25 8:1 8:2 17:22 17:24	full-time [1] 11:22	98:3 98:13 101:14	higher [2] 34:25
	18:2	fulminant [1] 22:19	102:1 103:1 103:3	35:10
	films [1] 59:14	function [1] 79:15	ground [1] 5:7	Hillsdale [2] 12:1
	finding [4] 7:7 34:20 62:23 75:7	functioned [1] 47:8	group [10] 2:17 4:8 4:10 4:13	12:15
	findings [10] 25:11 30:13 31:14 57:15	fungus [1] 26:25	12:6 12:9 23:24	himself [4] 57:23
	57:17 57:18 59:2	FUO [1] 72:25	30:3 30:6 47:7	95:25 96:23 97:2
	60:1 61:7 79:24	future [1] 85:7	guarantee [1] 100:24	11:13
	fine [3] 62:21 70:16 80:7		guy [1] 65:17	28:6 31:10 36:12
	finish [2] 58:21 87:17			36:23 43:5 57:23
	finished [2] 44:10 81:21			58:2 61:15 61:19
	first [16] 3:3 10:17 30:10 42:13 42:18			61:24 80:24 80:25
	45:20 50:16 63:16			82:10 87:14
	66:3 69:7 72:14			holds [1] 32:25
	72:20 82:18 82:22			home [5] 3:12
	91:15 106:7			3:20 14:12 83:7
	five [1] 101:24			85:7
	flu [1] 85:10			hospital [25] 11:21
				12:21 14:21 15:14
				16:15 46:6 46:12
				51:11 53:14 54:11
				54:17 59:19 59:22
				61:22 62:6 64:1
				65:5 66:15 67:1
				67:9 70:3 70:18
				88:20 96:22 96:25
				hospitalization [7] 47:3 59:10 64:14
				64:25 76:5 82:14
				102:18
				hospitals [1] 12:11
				host [1] 39:17
				hour [2] 85:13 100:4

hours [1] 88:18	83:24	intravenous [1] 37:14	known [1] 89:25	36:7 50:9 60:4
Howard [1] 70:24	indicative [1] 63:7	invasion [4] 32:8	Kruthoff [12] 1:9	77:22
husband [1] 99:12	indicators [4] 27:9	34:7 34:7 38:3	1:13 1:16 2:11	looking [4] 27:8
hyperthyroidism [1] 79:14	36:16 40:14 41:5	invasive [3] 26:12	3:1 3:6 3:10	27:15 56:13 66:6
	indices [1] 80:3	26:13 26:16	85:7 85:15 85:18	loss [13] 31:1 77:9
	individual [3] 41:19	involved [4] 46:24	105:18 106:6	77:16 77:21 78:2
	53:2 63:22	48:3 65:14 76:22		80:21 82:13 82:19
-I-		involving [1] 44:18	-L-	82:20 82:21 82:23
ICU [2] 52:10 91:19	infected [3] 32:19	irreversible [2] 99:22	L.P.A [3] 1:23	82:25 83:1
idea [1] 64:6	38:14 39:19	100:2	2:3 2:13	louder [1] 3:18
identification [1] 10:3	infection [17] 26:24	isolated [1] 37:15	lab [3] 48:3 50:11	low [2] 17:18 62:8
identified [1] 52:7	32:16 32:17 32:22	issue [1] 11:10	91:22	lower [5] 25:22
identify [1] 10:19	39:5 39:18 39:25	issues [1] 19:12	laboratory [4] 25:4	34:20 35:9 62:20
ill [2] 100:21 101:5	49:3 49:7 49:8	itself [3] 32:17 33:11	64:21 64:22 71:25	77:4
illness [2] 58:3	50:3 50:7 51:6	63:10	last [8] 3:9 5:4	lung [2] 48:25 49:1
98:24	51:18 67:15 73:24		7:13 54:16 80:9	lymphoma [1] 79:4
imagine [1] 9:14	99:7	-J-	85:4 85:6 93:8	
immediate [2] 37:19	infectious [8] 54:21	Jackson [3] 6:20	late [6] 28:23 28:25	-M-
99:9	54:24 71:18 73:8	8:1 11:21	29:2 29:8 29:12	M [3] 1:19 106:5
immediately [1] 62:25	73:20 78:25 84:14		29:15	106:17
implantation [1] 26:19	101:20	Jeanne [4] 2:4	lateral [1] 60:12	M.D [8] 1:9 1:13
implies [1] 33:17	infective [4] 14:5	6:13 65:13 68:3	lawful [1] 3:1	1:16 2:11 3:1
importance [1] 52:2	15:3 25:9 32:6	job [1] 102:22	lawsuit [1] 5:6	3:6 105:18 106:6
important [4] 5:10	information [27]	JOHN [1] 2:13	Leader [2] 1:23	malignancy [1] 79:4
5:17 36:10 42:2	16:21 17:1 17:8	joint [1] 42:7	2:14	malpractice [3] 5:1
impression [3] 64:10	21:19 21:24 22:4	Joyce [11] 21:19	learn [2] 82:1 94:6	5:6 6:10
73:7 92:11	22:24 23:21 23:22	22:24 23:13 23:16	learned [1] 94:3	management [8]
impressions [2] 44:12	24:3 24:7 31:17	23:17 23:20 23:22	least [4] 44:17 90:24	19:7 37:19 38:8
89:14	56:18 58:4 58:6	24:4 90:11 92:6	100:10 101:23	38:13 42:7 46:25
improperly [1] 7:20	59:19 63:13 86:8	judgment [2] 62:23	leave [1] 96:19	57:13 66:7
improved [1] 76:12	86:16 87:3 87:10	96:3	leaving [1] 96:18	manifest [1] 29:6
inaccurate [3] 21:18	93:15 94:10 94:13	July [1] 106:14	led [1] 22:5	March [18]
22:4 24:5	94:16 95:22 95:24	June [1] 1:14	left [13] 49:22 49:24	16:8 16:10 54:7
inaccurately [1] 21:21	initial [2] 29:24	jury [1] 7:3	50:5 50:22 50:24	54:13 54:15 61:10
inartfully [1] 5:13	79:15		51:4 84:25 85:2	66:10 66:13 69:9
incidence [1] 28:16	initiation [1] 88:4	-K-	85:3 85:22 90:22	69:14 69:17 72:4
include [4] 31:23	inpatient [4] 46:13	K-R-U-I-T-H-O-F-F	91:15 92:2	74:13 74:17 74:19
32:2 51:20 51:21	46:16 46:18 47:11	[1] 3:11	Leonard [1] 3:10	75:24 103:3
included [8] 48:24	inquiry [1] 19:8	Kaiser [10] 14:22	lesions [1] 30:15	Marek [1] 63:24
49:2 49:4 51:24	inspection [1] 52:3	15:17 15:21 46:17	licensed [1] 10:7	mark'd [1] 10:3
51:25 52:1 52:3	inspirometer [1] 52:2	56:14 56:16 57:5	life [1] 101:17	marked [1] 43:12
80:20	52:2	69:11 72:8 87:1	life-threatening [1] 37:22	mass [1] 33:8
including [1] 37:23	instance [1] 84:13	Kaiser/Cleveland [1] 81:13	likely [8] 39:24	material [4] 17:6
increase [2] 31:25	instances [1] 35:6	Karen [3] 1:19	43:14 62:23 73:25	32:23 32:24 67:14
43:25	instructed [2] 70:4	106:5 106:17	74:2 83:22 84:13	matter [5] 13:3
increased [2] 30:23	86:4	keep [3] 15:24 65:22	99:8	13:12 17:5 19:5
62:18	instructions [2] 56:17	70:1	limited [1] 26:7	24:19
indeed [1] 62:23	56:20	Keith [9] 1:9	line [6] 6:14 18:19	maximum [1] 37:17
independent [1] 42:9	insufficiency [2] 22:22 45:21	1:13 1:16 2:11	52:9 53:3 65:9	may [56] 6:3 13:16
index [5] 27:18	intensive [3] 89:5	3:1 3:6 3:10	105:5	13:17 15:2 16:10
40:6 50:7 51:6	90:15 91:13	105:18 106:6	listed [4] 11:8	19:9 19:15 19:17
58:7	interested [1] 106:12	kids [1] 99:4	11:12 13:2 13:23	19:21 20:15 20:16
indicate [1] 27:9	intermittent [3] 57:20	kind [2] 17:17 82:19	listen [2] 42:3	21:15 23:18 24:1
indicated [7] 8:17	78:15 78:18	King [2] 86:23 87:1	58:18	28:4 31:14 33:17
15:6 41:23 47:22	internal [2] 10:11	knew [2] 27:10	litigation [2] 6:10	33:19 34:20 35:10
55:14 61:4 102:22	88:1	80:24	18:8	35:22 36:18 43:2
indicates [1] 78:5	intervention [4] 37:20 39:12 40:14	knowing [5] 62:14	lived [1] 100:24	47:19 54:15 73:17
indications [2] 28:4	45:3	62:15 62:16 62:17	living [1] 101:24	77:10 78:8 78:11
	interventional [2] 45:2 47:25	62:20	log [2] 15:25 16:3	78:14 82:2 82:3
	intraoperative [2] 45:15 45:19	knowledge [4] 26:4	longer [2] 37:17	83:23 84:7 84:18
	intraoperatively [1] 46:2	45:14 71:9 72:1	95:4	84:20 84:22 84:25
			look [6] 5:22 28:3	86:15 88:19 88:23
				92:25 93:22 95:7
				95:18 96:23 97:1
				97:6 98:6 98:12

100:2 100:7 100:23 101:2 101:5 102:7 mean [8] 4:21 20:5 20:8 35:19 39:25 49:21 84:2 100:17 meaning [1] 45:17 means [2] 32:13 32:15 meant [1] 21:22 mechanical [4] 31:23 33:24 37:21 101:12 medical [20] 2:17 4:8 4:10 4:13 5:22 6:9 12:6 12:9 14:23 18:9 18:9 25:1 25:24 30:3 30:6 37:13 37:18 38:2 38:7 56:11 medically [1] 70:20 medicine [4] 10:11 11:14 46:17 88:1 meet [1] 95:2 meeting [5] 94:20 94:22 94:24 95:10 95:16 member [2] 23:24 81:20 members [1] 21:8 Memorial [1] 11:21 memory [1] 25:18 mentioned [14] 6:8 7:25 9:21 15:11 15:23 16:7 31:5 32:11 33:23 34:11 49:11 51:19 69:16 102:24 Merit [1] 1:19 message [12] 84:25 85:2 85:3 85:5 85:15 85:21 85:22 85:23 85:25 86:9 86:13 91:16 messages [2] 90:22 92:3 metastatic [1] 32:6 Michigan [8] 6:20 8:2 9:3 9:17 10:8 11:21 25:1 25:24 might [2] 27:9 38:17 Miller [17] 23:23 24:4 24:13 29:20 30:2 89:16 89:21 90:8 90:10 90:11 90:13 90:19 91:1 92:1 92:16 94:7 97:20 mind [2] 81:3 96:19 mindset [1] 63:22 minimum [1] 37:17 minute [5] 20:2 53:23 68:3 87:4	95:4 minutes [2] 99:3 100:4 misdirected [1] 21:25 Mishkind [1] 2:3 misinformation [1] 23:14 Mistry [1] 75:18 mitral [16] 22:21 43:7 43:7 44:3 44:4 44:16 44:17 44:20 45:4 45:4 45:9 45:10 61:15 89:8 101:10 101:13 moderate [1] 44:17 moderately [1] 45:21 Monday [5] 22:7 94:4 94:6 95:5 97:17 month [1] 53:10 months [5] 16:9 16:12 16:13 16:14 16:18 moonlighted [11] 11:18 MOORE [1] 2:18 morning [4] 88:23 91:18 94:9 96:7 mortality [2] 101:1 101:4 most [4] 36:10 62:23 74:2 99:7 motions [1] 5:20 move [1] 36:19 Mrs [2] 58:5 98:17 MS [21] 3:7 6:15 14:16 16:2 16:16 19:1 23:7 30:21 48:22 50:14 54:1 59:23 63:21 65:16 65:21 68:6 80:6 84:5 84:21 103:23 103:25 multiple [4] 31:23 38:5 48:14 88:3 murmer [1] 75:5 murmur [2] 30:12 75:10 murmurs [2] 53:22 75:19 Murphy [2] 1:22 2:12 muscle [1] 34:4 must [1] 37:20 myocardial [2] 38:2 38:3 myocardium [3] 32:8 32:22 34:7 myomatous [1] 35:25 -N- nail [1] 96:17	name [8] 3:9 3:9 3:10 7:8 7:13 8:11 8:14 97:14 named [2] 6:9 106:6 nature [3] 46:16 60:14 69:2 nausea [1] 85:10 necessarily [3] 36:4 61:2 61:5 necessary [3] 61:21 62:5 103:7 necessity [1] 24:15 neck [7] 65:8 65:19 67:7 67:13 67:23 68:8 68:11 necrotizing [1] 8:9 need [3] 25:17 57:9 83:3 negative [4] 25:7 76:3 76:6 76:11 negligence [4] 7:16 7:17 8:8 9:8 neutrophil [1] 51:3 never [4] 21:13 23:8 68:14 94:9 new [3] 43:8 43:10 75:7 next [4] 54:5 54:11 66:9 76:15 nice [1] 17:18 night [15] 40:9 56:5 57:20 61:24 67:22 69:10 78:15 78:18 78:24 79:12 79:17 83:9 85:4 85:6 92:10 nine [1] 76:6 nods [1] 5:19 nonconfrontational [1] 96:6 normal [2] 64:20 69:20 Notary [4] 1:20 105:24 106:5 106:17 note [10] 29:21 46:4 53:21 55:2 55:3 63:21 72:7 72:12 75:16 105:3 noted [5] 46:5 55:5 55:6 65:6 69:9 notes [8] 18:4 18:6 18:11 18:21 18:23 18:25 60:11 73:1 nothing [1] 106:7 1:21 notice [1] 81:14 notified [1] 59:6 notify [1] 15:23 now [46] 8:17 16:19 18:11 26:6 38:8 42:18 45:11	46:6 48:6 51:9 52:9 53:5 53:8 53:19 55:12 56:8 56:24 60:6 63:25 65:5 67:20 68:10 71:7 72:4 72:11 72:14 73:1 73:3 74:19 75:3 76:14 76:19 77:1 78:11 79:21 81:11 84:7 85:8 88:9 88:19 89:10 89:20 92:3 93:6 93:25 number [1] 78:24 nurse [1] 69:14 nurses [1] 47:21 -O- <'clock [3] 1:24 91:19 104:5 oath [1] 5:9 object [2] 27:20 68:17 objection [42] 4:23 6:3 6:14 12:24 13:5 16:23 17:9 17:14 18:14 18:18 19:18 20:3 23:4 22:1 22:11 36:21 27:5 27:12 61:1 40:2 40:10 63:21 61:17 62:1 67:16 67:2 67:10 77:12 67:17 69:6 93:17 83:10 84:15 99:23 93:18 97:8 100:9 100:19 101:18 102:2 obtained [3] 76:7 76:9 79:1 obviously [1] 16:4 occasion [3] 8:18 65:10 66:2 6:10 occasions [1] 46:2 occurred [7] 55:19 82:13 91:9 91:18 94:24 96:7 October [3] 42:17 43:9 106:18 odd [1] 22:12 off [2] 42:15 42:16 2:4 office [7] 79:22 91:15 94:19 95:3 95:12 106:14 1:22 offices [1] 28:11 often [2] 28:8 Ohio [25] 1:2 1:21 1:24 2:5 2:9 2:15 2:16 2:19 3:2 3:14 3:25 4:5 4:8 4:10 4:12 8:25 10:8 12:5 12:9 30:2 30:5 106:2 106:5 106:14 106:17 once [5] 5:1 5:5	44:10 88:21 94:13 one [27] 6:2 6:18 8:18 9:14 11:23 20:18 20:21 20:22 27:14 27:24 28:21 29:10 35:18 46:15 47:8 63:5 65:10 66:2 70:12 70:16 73:23 78:24 86:21 86:22 89:23 96:16 100:4 one-half [1] 85:13 one-over-six [1] 75:4 ones [1] 31:5 onset [2] 43:8 43:10 onto [1] 32:19 open [4] 72:11 75:1 89:7 96:6 opening [1] 74:9 operate [2] 92:18 95:18 operating [3] 91:25 92:5 92:9 operative [2] 46:4 101:1 opinion [26] 21:21 21:23 38:20 45:1 48:8 71:14 73:3 73:6 73:11 75:25 76:2 77:5 78:17 83:6 83:12 83:13 83:19 84:10 98:3 98:7 99:21 99:25 100:1 100:10 101:6 101:16 opportunity [7] 21:7 42:25 43:19 57:1 60:6 100:5 101:3 order [2] 27:15 43:18 orders [1] 47:21 organism [3] 31:12 36:14 37:16 organs [1] 32:5 origin [6] 40:8 60:24 61:16 67:5 67:21 68:12 original [1] 92:24 otherwise [2] 5:15 106:12 outcome [2] 19:25 39:24 outpatient [1] 53:10 -P- p.m [3] 85:1 91:21 104:5 pacemakers [1] 26:20 page [5] 50:11 50:16 50:18 105:3 105:5 pain [4] 49:1 85:4 85:6 85:9 papillary [1] 34:4
--	--	--	--	---

iaravalvular [2] 22:21 34:3	89:16 89:20	licking [1] 34:13	possibility [3] 79:13	problem [7] 22:14
parentheses [2] 85:11	pending [3] 6:22	picture [1] 36:8	81:5 84:16	43:14 80:17 82:23
85:12	8:21 55:6	place [5] 20:16	possible [5] 34:20	97:18 97:23 99:12
Parma [1] 4:4	people [6] 29:7	32:25 52:10 64:14	36:24 38:13 80:20	problems [2] 45:15
part [15] 5:4 11:25	46:20 47:25 89:13	106:11	88:12	46:1
15:20 24:24 33:10	95:9 95:13	placed [2] 45:12	possibly [2] 43:7	procedure [7] 3:3
36:10 46:9 46:15	per [1] 85:11	67:14	98:5	39:13 53:16 56:5
46:18 54:22 56:14	percent [2] 28:22	I'laintiff [9] 1:7	post [3] 46:21 46:22	58:15 85:8 85:16
56:16 58:12 59:8	101:23	1:17 2:2 4:25	46:23	procedures [4] 26:16
participated [2] 24:18	perfectly [1] 61:20	7:7 7:8 8:12	post-pericardiotomy	38:22 38:24 88:7
24:23	perform [7] 26:17	9:4 9:6	[1] 49:6	proceeding [1] 36:17
participating [1]	26:18 26:19 79:6	I'laintiff's [4] 7:22	postcardiography [1]	process [1] 54:21
88:25	88:2 88:4 93:5	8:15 10:2 10:24	74:3	profess [1] 101:19
particular [9] 11:9	performed [2] 25:2	plan [2] 87:15 87:19	postcardiotomy [2]	professional [2]
22:8 39:3 51:5	80:3	platelets [1] 33:7	73:22 74:4	4:11 11:13
60:10 60:22 72:12	pericarditis [2] 49:5	I'LEAS [1] 1:1	postoperative [8]	progress [2] 72:17
80:17 92:15	74:8	pleural [2] 49:2	48:15 48:16 48:25	75:16
partners [1] 89:23	pericardium [1]	55:5	49:1 49:5 64:11	project [1] 24:25
party [1] 106:12	74:9	plus [2] 22:21 45:21	65:4 75:1	prolonged [2] 37:14
pass [1] 10:16	period [4] 12:2	pneumonia [1] 49:3	potential [1] 79:10	100:3
past [2] 28:12 28:14	43:15 54:2 82:20	pneumonitis [1]	pounds [3] 78:6	prompt [2] 83:16
patient [88] 19:7	permanent [1] 26:19	49:4	78:8 78:10	83:20
19:8 19:14 21:19	Permanente [9] 2:16	point [11] 5:21	practice [5] 16:22	prophylaxis [1] 44:3
22:6 22:15 22:19	4:8 4:10 4:13	5:24 6:2 59:13	26:6 28:10 47:2	prosthesis [1] 39:17
24:8 24:10 24:14	12:5 12:9 14:22	66:7 73:23 77:18	preadmission [1]	prosthetic [61] 13:8
24:16 27:3 27:7	30:2 30:6	82:1 93:9 99:21	76:24	26:21 26:23 26:24
27:9 27:11 27:16	Perrysburg [1] 2:9	102:4	preceding [1] 54:25	27:3 27:11 27:17
27:19 28:1 28:2	person [7] 30:11	Polito [79] 1:23	predicted [5] 25:7	27:24 28:3 28:9
28:4 29:13 29:21	36:22 47:4 47:24	2:12 2:13 3:17	25:22 34:19 35:10	28:17 28:23 28:25
33:17 36:18 37:5	62:16 62:17 70:19	4:23 6:13 10:5	62:20	29:3 29:7 29:9
37:18 37:21 38:5	personal [3] 18:4	12:24 13:5 16:6	predictive [2] 25:15	29:12 29:18 29:21
39:21 39:23 40:7	18:5 56:15	16:23 17:9 17:14	35:7	29:25 31:4 31:7
40:12 41:4 41:20	personally [2] 24:6	18:14 18:18 19:18	predischarge [1]	31:22 33:10 34:13
43:8 43:23 45:8	92:4	20:2 20:7 22:2	51:24	37:3 37:7 37:10
47:7 49:13 51:10	personnel [1] 53:6	23:5 23:8 27:5	predisposition [1]	38:10 39:5 39:5
51:23 52:1 56:4	perspective [2] 40:15	27:12 27:20 36:21	30:11	39:12 39:19 39:22
56:6 56:11 56:21	70:25	40:2 40:10 40:18	preface [1] 82:24	40:7 40:13 41:4
57:6 58:14 59:14	pertaining [1] 15:15	40:21 40:24 41:2	prepared [1] 10:23	41:20 45:12 51:11
60:22 61:10 63:2	pertains [1] 16:3	41:8 41:13 42:3	prescription [1]	56:23 58:8 58:13
64:19 65:18 66:1	pertinent [1] 15:14	42:15 47:16 48:20	71:24	60:23 61:14 61:25
68:2 69:5 71:19	Peter [2] 86:22 87:1	50:13 50:15 53:23	presence [3] 30:13	67:6 67:15 69:2
71:24 72:15 72:23	phenomenon [2]	54:7 57:10 58:18	30:14 36:12	73:4 77:16 80:24
72:24 73:9 73:21	32:3 38:5	59:21 61:1 61:17	present [5] 32:16	81:5 81:7 81:9
78:6 80:22 80:25	phlebotomy [3] 64:13	62:1 63:23 65:13	32:17 37:2 58:3	82:10 83:24 88:2
81:6 83:14 86:3	64:16 64:24	65:20 65:22 67:2	95:13	89:8 98:10 101:14
86:17 87:23 87:25	phone [13] 54:14	67:10 67:17 68:3	presentation [3]	provide [7] 14:13
89:4 89:7 90:5	56:11 57:24 59:25	68:17 69:6 72:18	13:12 13:19 29:9	21:24 63:13 71:5
90:21 91:12 91:24	69:12 84:23 85:20	75:13 77:12 77:18	presented [1] 82:16	71:23 87:3 87:11
92:8 92:9 92:18	86:3 86:9 86:12	77:22 80:4 82:18	presents [1] 40:8	provided [11] 3:2
92:21 94:8 95:18	86:20 86:21 86:22	83:10 84:1 84:15	pressure [2] 66:20	5:21 22:25 23:14
95:23 95:25 96:3	phrase [1] 5:13	84:20 89:17 93:1	85:9	56:18 58:4 58:6
patient's [17] 15:16	physical [8] 52:4	93:9 93:18 97:8	presumptive [3]	59:19 83:17 87:12
22:5 23:19 24:11	57:12 57:14 57:16	99:23 100:9 100:19	25:5 37:6 37:16	93:15
41:22 56:3 57:11	57:17 57:18 87:12	101:18 102:2 104:3	previous [2] 33:18	providing [3] 12:4
57:13 59:9 65:15	physically [1] 47:22	polymorphonucleocyte	87:9	24:4 46:16
76:12 80:24 89:14	physician [8] 9:12	[1] 49:25	previously [7] 15:16	PRT [1] 85:11
90:14 90:25 91:12	11:22 30:3 57:6	poor [3] 49:1 96:16	40:17 66:11 75:9	prudent [3] 60:25
92:24	70:24 86:25 92:20	102:22	82:12 83:2 97:14	67:25 69:3
patients [12] 25:3	92:25	position [1] 11:17	primary [3] 46:19	Public [4] 1:20
28:8 39:10 46:19	physicians [7] 17:23	positive [15] 19:25	59:10 70:23	105:24 106:5 106:17
46:20 46:23 46:25	46:20 60:1 71:23	20:5 20:8 25:6	privileges [5] 12:12	publication [1] 14:7
47:10 53:13 69:23	74:11 102:16 103:9	25:21 30:14 31:12	12:14 12:16 12:19	publications [2]
96:10 96:16	physics [1] 34:23	34:19 35:10 36:14	12:22	11:7 13:1
Patterson [3] 1:19		37:6 39:24 39:25		published [2] 14:6
106:5 106:17		62:20 76:1		26:1
Paul [4] 23:23 24:4		possibilities [3]		pulling [1] 38:24
		48:23 78:20 78:21		

Index Page 9

95:12	sequential[1]	25:3	67:18 93:17 100:20	standpoint[1]	84:2	suggests[1]	28:6
saving[1]	series[1]	51:15	104:2	start[1]	88:10	suit[1]	5:1
saw[38]	serious[2]	24:11	Skylight[1]	state[8]	1:20 3:8	Suite[3]	1:23 2:4
47:14 47:17 47:22	37:22		slightly[1]	9:2 25:18 39:1		2:14	
49:15 49:17 53:19	serve[1]	8:23	slip[1]	106:2 106:5 106:17		summaries[1]	15:15
54:12 54:13 54:16	served[1]	8:18	slips[3]	States[1]	85:6	summarized[3]	
54:19 61:9 63:2	service[7]	46:14	103:11	stating[2]	56:3	18:9 58:2 86:10	
65:17 66:1 66:5	services[3]	4:12	slow[1]	69:12		summarizing[1]	85:5
66:9 66:13 71:18	12:5 46:14		small[3]	status[14]	22:5	summary[4]	18:24
72:4 73:8 73:21	session[1]	5:9	60:11 62:21	22:9 23:19 24:14		19:2 59:9 73:7	
74:12 74:17 74:19	set[5]	1:25 5:22	Smith[4]	46:21 46:22 46:23		Sunday[3]	20:15
75:24 76:12 76:14	68:8 106:8 106:13		86:24 86:25 87:13	76:12 90:25 91:24		47:18 94:8	
76:15 76:19 78:11	sets[2]	76:6 88:3	Snow[1]	91:24 92:8 95:23		superior[2]	2:14
80:15 81:12 88:21	settled[1]	8:6	SOB[1]	statute[1]	1:18	25:20	
88:23 90:16 103:3	seven[1]	47:8	socially[1]	stenosis[4]	43:8	support[1]	33:2
says[2]	several[5]	15:8	someone[1]	44:4 44:17 44:21		supporting[3]	32:18
50:22 72:22	48:6 48:9 67:13		sometime[2]	stenotypy[1]	106:8	33:9 34:1	
schedule[6]	80:19		somewhat[2]	STEPHEN[1]	2:8	supposed[3]	52:17
15:1	Severance[1]	3:24	91:16	sternal[1]	75:5	53:9 71:1	
16:8 16:12 16:17	severe[3]	22:21	somewhere[1]	Steve[1]	7:24	supposition[1]	40:3
47:10 96:15	37:24 45:21		soon[2]	still[11]	6:4 6:21	surface[5]	25:7
schedular[7]	severity[1]	31:25	39:22	12:14 12:16 17:20		25:21 35:3 35:23	
21:20	sewed[1]	34:2	sorry[5]	18:21 29:25 30:5		88:5	
90:24 92:22 93:16	sewing[2]	31:24	5:3 7:11	81:2 87:6 101:5		surgeon[7]	38:18
95:22 96:15 97:10	32:19		14:9 30:19 87:17	stipulations[1]	1:21	39:2 42:1 89:18	
scheduling[4]	Shaker[1]	3:13	sort[1]	66:14 67:7 67:22		90:20 92:17 93:4	
96:10 97:23 99:12	sharing[1]	46:11	100:16	68:11 73:21 74:2		surgeons[2]	47:1
screening[1]	sheet[2]	50:12 72:17	source[2]	98:8		89:11	
79:16	shift[5]	49:22 49:24	73:14	Street[2]	2:5	surgery[62]	19:9
seal[1]	50:5 50:22 50:25		3:18	2:19		19:15 19:17 19:21	
106:14	short[1]	100:25	speaking[6]	structure[2]	32:18	19:24 21:4 21:11	
second[8]	show[3]	6:13 18:18	36:6 39:11 39:15	33:2		21:15 22:7 24:12	
45:1 45:16 45:18	30:15		69:25 93:22	structures[7]	32:21	24:15 28:18 29:7	
50:11 50:17 63:4	showed[3]	25:19	73:20	33:6 33:9 34:19		29:10 29:16 29:24	
66:3	45:20 55:4		specializing[1]	35:2 35:21 62:22		41:25 46:2 46:7	
secretary[9]	sickle[2]	80:25	45:3	struts[1]	33:10	46:22 46:24 48:6	
90:23 91:16 92:4	side[2]	65:8 69:4	specific[7]	study[5]	25:12	48:9 51:12 51:23	
93:16 94:21 95:1	Signature[1]	104:4	61:8 70:11 92:23	25:19 25:23 25:25		53:1 53:5 53:15	
95:11 97:13	significance[1]	11:9	95:8 100:13 102:14	26:3		53:20 54:11 64:12	
section[1]	signs[7]	28:5 30:8	specifically[9]	subject[6]	13:3	74:9 75:1 75:14	
72:15	30:10 31:3 34:13		17:15 27:8 27:16	13:12 17:5 18:8		77:17 77:20 82:21	
secured[2]	49:18 87:12		33:21 46:22 48:10	19:5 24:19		89:8 89:15 90:4	
52:13	11:9		70:8 99:2	Subscribed[1]	105:20	90:6 90:21 91:4	
sedimentation[3]	signs[7]	28:5 30:8	specificity[1]	subsequent[1]	53:21	92:12 92:24 93:5	
30:24 84:8 84:11	30:10 31:3 34:13		specified[1]	18:25 23:16 65:20		93:10 93:22 93:25	
see[14]	49:18 87:12		spectrum[1]	96:5		94:9 94:14 96:3	
28:1 28:8	silk[1]	65:7	speculations[2]	subsequently[4]		96:16 96:24 97:7	
35:20 36:2 47:10	similar[1]	86:11	73:16 73:18	100:6 100:15		97:19 99:13 100:7	
50:22 51:3 53:12	Simon[1]	70:24	spell[2]	subspecialties[1]	46:18	100:18 100:23 102:5	
54:2 54:5 65:24	simple[1]	36:1	3:9 7:13	46:18		102:7	
72:16 72:19 88:20	simply[3]	35:25	splinting[1]	successful[3]	40:1	surgical[20]	19:7
seeding[1]	39:7 74:8		spoke[11]	100:6 100:15		21:20 37:19 38:8	
32:6	single-family[1]	3:20	23:13 23:15 86:20	101:15		38:12 38:19 39:12	
seeing[4]	sit[2]	17:19 42:10	89:16 90:11 90:12	such[1]	33:9	39:20 40:14 41:6	
42:19 47:23 62:6	site[1]	65:8	90:19 90:23 91:6	suffered[1]	103:2	41:17 41:21 90:23	
send[1]	skin[3]	30:13 31:14	spread[1]	suggest[2]	49:18	91:15 92:22 95:22	
85:15	52:13		spring[1]	63:20		96:10 96:15 97:10	
senior[1]	Skiver[14]	2:8	SS[1]	suggested[1]	36:14	101:4	
24:25	3:18 5:3 17:16		stable[1]	29:23		survived[3]	20:1
sensitive[3]	17:20 22:1 22:11		standard[2]	60:13		20:6 100:17	
34:16 34:17	23:4 30:19 67:16			suggestive[2]	34:13	suspected[2]	31:12
sensitivity[5]				36:23		73:21	
25:19 35:9 62:14						suspended[1]	12:22
62:18						suspicion[7]	27:18
sent[3]						31:10 40:6 44:16	
25:4 55:8							
separate[1]							
46:14							
separated[1]							
33:1							
septic[2]							
33:22							
33:24							
septicemia[1]							
49:19							
seque[2]							
33:19							
33:21							
sequeli[2]							
27:23							
27:25							

Index Page 11

wait [4] 20:2 53:23 68:3	22:7	72:12			
waived [1]	104:4	-X-			
walks [1]	52:3	rr-ray [6] 51:21			
warfarin [1]	44:2	55:4 79:2 79:6			
warrant [1]	36:16	79:8 79:9			
warranted [2] 71:15	58:12	-Y-			
weakness [3] 73:2 74:20	58:1	year [5] 11:23 28:12			
week [3] 20:16 58:1	20:17	28:14 29:10 29:24			
weekend [2] 94:5	48:5	years [1] 101:24			
weeks [3] 53:13 98:18	37:17	Yitzchak [1] 57:4			
weight [17] 77:9 77:16 78:2 78:3 78:7 78:9 82:13 82:19 82:21 82:22 83:1	31:1 77:21 78:5 78:10 82:20 82:25	-Z-			
West [1] 2:5		zero [1] 84:9			
WHEREOF [1] 106:13		zip [1] 3:15			
white [4] 50:5 55:7	49:25 80:1				
whole [1]	106:7				
wife [5] 56:3 56:17 81:20	56:7 84:25				
window [2] 101:3	100:5				
wish [3] 5:24 102:19	102:16				
within [11] 29:24 49:12 83:21 88:12 95:7 106:5 106:17	20:18 53:13 88:18 106:6				
without [1]	106:11				
witness [9] 5:5 9:10 10:6 17:19 58:20 106:13	5:2 9:10 41:10				
wondering [2] 92:19	76:22				
words [1]	51:15				
worked [1]	11:20				
workup [4] 51:20 54:24	51:17 54:25				
worse [1]	43:16				
worsen [3] 85:17 85:19	85:14				
worsening [3] 34:5 89:6	33:25				
wound [2] 49:8	49:8				
wounds [1]	52:4				
writing [1]	72:20				
written [2] 18:24	13:20				
wrongful [1]	7:18				
wrote [2]	18:24				

AFFIDAVIT

I have read the foregoing transcript from
page 1 through 104 and note the following
corrections:

PAGE	LINE	REQUESTED CHANGE
36	2	Change "thinning" to thickening
39	10	Change "a" to native
43	24	Change "TE" to 2D
44	1	Change "recontrol" to rate control
45	1	Change "Emin" to Murat
56	22/23	admitted to (to the hospital) to rule out prosthetic valve endocarditis

Keith Kruthoff M.D.

KEITH KRUTHOFF, M.D.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

5th day of SEP, 2000.

[Signature]
Notary Public

My commission expires No exp date.

