

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

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

FRANCES SMITH, Administratrix)
of the Estate of Alvester)
Smith, Sr., Deceased,)

Doc. 269

Plaintiff,)

vs.)

Case No. 100877

SAINT LUKE'S HOSPITAL, et al.,)
)
Defendants.)

- - -

Deposition of SONG JOON LEE, MD, a
Defendant herein, taken by the Plaintiff as if upon
cross-examination before Lorraine J. Box, a
Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public
within and for the State of Ohio, at the office of
Charles Kampinski, Esq., 1530 Standard Building,,
Cleveland, Ohio, on Monday, the 22nd day of
September, 1986, commencing at 1:35 p.m., pursuant
to notice and agreement of counsel.

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 Charles Kampinski, Esq.,
3 On behalf of the Plaintiff.

4 Jacobson, Maynard, Tuschman & Kalur, by:
5 William D. Bonezzi, Esq. and Stephen J.
6 Charms, Esq.,
7 On behalf of Defendant S. J. Lee, MD.

8 Reminger & Reminger, by:
9 Marc W. Groedel, Esq.,
10 On behalf of Defendants Timothy L.
11 Stephens, MD and Curtis W. Smith, MD.

12 Arter & Hadden, by:
13 Rita A. Bartnik, Esq.,
14 On behalf of Defendants St. Luke's
15 Hospital, J. E. Edmonson, LPT and
16 K. Fedeshen, LPT.

17 Kitchen, Messner & Deery, by:
18 Janet D. Dann, Esq.,
19 On behalf of Defendant Agnes Sims.

20 - - -

21 STIPULATIONS

22 It is stipulated by and between counsel
23 for the respective parties that this deposition may
24 be taken in stenotypy by Lorraine J. Box; that her
25 stenotype notes may be subsequently transcribed in
the absence of the witness; and that all
requirements of the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure
with regard to notice of time and place of taking
this deposition are waived.

- - -

1 SONG JOON LEE, MD,
2 the Defendant herein, called by the Plaintiff for
3 the purpose of cross-examination as provided by the
4 Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure, being by me first
5 duly sworn, as hereinafter certified, deposes and
6 says as follows:

7 CROSS-EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. KAMPINSKI:

9 Q. Would you state your full name, please?

10 A. First name is Song, S-o-n-g, middle name
11 is Joon, J-o-o-n, last name is Lee, L-e-e.

12 Q. Dr. Lee, I'm going to ask you a number of
13 questions this afternoon. If you don't understand
14 any of them, tell me. I'll be happy to rephrase
15 them. When you answer my questions, do so verbally.
16 In other words, don't shake your head because she's
17 going to be taking down everything we say. She
18 can't take down a nod of your head.

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. Keep your voice up so all the attorneys
21 can hear you.

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. All right. Where do you live, sir?

24 A. I live in Highland Heights.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A, Ohio.

2 Q. Your address?

3 A. 909 Belwood, B Like in boy, B-e-l-w-o-o-d,
4 Belwood Drive, Highland Heights, 44143.

5 Q. How old are you, sir?

6 A. I'm 44.

7 Q. Your date of birth is what?

8 A. October 21, '41.

9 Q. All right. Where were you born?

10 A. I was born in Taegu, Korea.

11 Q. What was the name of the city?

12 A. T-a-e-g-u, Taegu. City in the south part
13 of Korea.

14 Q. Okay. How long did you live in South
15 Korea?

16 A, I lived there for 29 years.

17 Q. 29 years?

18 A. Right.

19 Q. All right, What did you do there? Did
20 you go to school?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Until when? Until how old?

23 A. Until 26 I graduated medical school.

24 Q, Graduated medical school?

25 A. Yeah. Then from 26 -- 29 years I stayed

1 in the Korean Air Force as officer surgeon.

2 Q. Okay. Before you went to medical school --
3 is the school system at all in South Korea like it
4 is here in the United States? Is there elementary
5 school?

6 A. Yeah. Elementary --

7 Q. Why don't you tell me what the school
8 system is like and what you went through.

9 A. Six years of elementary school, three
10 years of junior high school and three years of
11 senior high school and premedical college, two
12 years.

13 Q. What was the premedical college you went
14 to?

15 A. To a liberal arts and science college.

16 Q. Is that the name of the college?

17 A. The college I attended?

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. Was Liberal Arts and Science College of
20 Kyung Pook, K-y-u-n-g, P-o-o-k, National University.

21 Q. Okay. Where is that located?

22 A. Taegu, Korea.

23 Q. Taegu?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Where had you gone to high school?

1 A. Kyung Pook, the same spelling as
2 university. Kyung Pook High School.

3 Q. Okay. And the college that you attended,
4 you said it was a liberal arts college?

5 A. For premed.

6 Q. Premed?

7 A. Yeah, premedical course.

8 Q. How long did you go to that college?

9 A. That college, two years.

10 Q. Two years. And did you graduate from
11 that college?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Received a degree?

14 A. I received a diploma.

15 Q. Diploma?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. What year was that, do you remember?

18 A. '63.

19 Q. All right. And what did you do right
20 after graduation from that college?

21 A. I went into medical school.

22 Q. Okay. Where was that?

23 A. The same university, medical college.

24 Q. Is that South Korea also?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Where is that in relation to Seoul?

2 A. It's about the -- about 400 miles the
3 south of Seoul.

4 Q. South of Seoul?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. When did you start medical school?

7 A. '64 -- no, '63. March, '63.

8 Q. What did you do between the time that you
9 graduated premedical school and going to medical
10 school?

11 A. I immediately go into -- went right into
12 the medical school.

13 Q. I thought you said you got your diploma
14 in '62?

15 A. No, '63.

16 Q. Okay. So you went right to medical
17 school after that?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. That started in March?

20 A. March of '63, yeah.

21 Q. That's when the semesters or the quarters
22 start?

23 A. Yeah. March 1st they started.

24 Q. Okay. And how long did you attend
25 medical school?

| | | |
|----|----|---|
| 1 | A. | Four years. |
| 2 | Q. | When did you graduate? |
| 3 | A. | '67. March, '67. |
| 4 | Q. | All right. You received a medical degree? |
| 5 | A. | Yeah. |
| 6 | Q. | What did you do after that, sir? |
| 7 | A. | Three years of service in Korean Air Force. |
| 8 | | |
| 9 | Q. | Okay. Is that required service? |
| 10 | A. | Yeah. It's obligatory. |
| 11 | Q. | That would have been until what, 1970? |
| 12 | A. | 1970, yeah. |
| 13 | Q. | What did you do in the Air Force? |
| 14 | A. | As officer surgeon. I became a |
| 15 | | Lieutenant, medical officer. |
| 16 | Q. | Okay. And was this general surgery or |
| 17 | | any specialty? |
| 18 | A. | No specialty. Almost like general |
| 19 | | practitioner here, but no practice on the |
| 20 | | preventive medicine. Internal medicine and some |
| 21 | | surgery. |
| 22 | Q. | Where were you stationed? |
| 23 | A. | Stationed -- I cannot understand what |
| 24 | | stationed. |
| 25 | Q. | Where were you located while you were in |

1 the Air Force?

2 A. Air Force, two years in Taegu, Korea.

3 Q. Right at home?

4 A. The same place I was born, and one year I
5 was in on other side of mountain very close to
6 Taegu.

7 Q. You never went over the seas or out of
8 the country or anything?

9 A. No.

10 Q. You stayed pretty close to home this
11 whole time?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Went to school close to home?

14 A. I was born there.

15 Q. That was until 1970?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. How big of a medical school is it? How
18 big was your graduating class?

19 A. Our class when we graduated, 80 students.

20 Q. How big was your college class?

21 A. College class, same.

22 Q. Same?

23 A. Same people.

24 Q. Same people. Just went straight from
25 college into medical school?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Graduated from medical school?

3 A. Right.

4 Q. How about high school, same people there
5 too?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Some more?

8 A. One grade, about 600, close to that.

9 Q. Does the Korean system work similar to
10 ours? Do you have a choice as far as going to
11 medical school, is that what you wanted to do, or
12 were you somehow chosen to go to medical school?

13 A. No. We choose. Individual choose what
14 they like to.

15 Q. All right. What kind of discharge did
16 you receive from the Air Force?

17 A. Discharge, you mean the work?

18 Q. No. When you got out of the Air Force,
19 Korean Air Force, honorable -- or maybe that's not
20 a term that they use. I don't know.

21 A. Just three-year term. In the beginning,
22 we assign on the three-year term. Three years is
23 minimum required years.

24 Q. Everybody has to be in the service?

25 A. Right.

1 Q. Do you get a choice as to which branch
2 you want to go to or is that somehow determined as
3 to the education you have? In other words, by
4 going to medical school, did that then allow you to
5 go into the Air Force as opposed to the Army?

6 A. Whatever we like to choose.

7 Q. Yeah.

8 A. But there's more competition in the Air
9 Force. We have to take tests and all the physical
10 examinations and everything. But there was not
If much limitation in qualification. We like to
12 choose and we apply there and took tests.

13 Q. Okay. And you went as an officer?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. You got out in March of 1970?

16 A. Out of the --

17 Q. Air Force.

18 A. Air Force, no. In May, 1970.

19 Q. Okay. What did you do after you got out
23 of the Air Force?

21 A. I prepared to come to United States.

22 Q. What was the purpose for coming to the
23 United States?

24 A. To have better training with better
25 facilities. Medical facilities with medical

1 education.

2 Q. When did you come here?

3 A. July, '70.

4 Q. July of 1970?

5 A. Right.

6 Q. And was it through some type of program
7 you were coming here, an exchange program?

8 A. Foreign Education Council we call it. We
9 took tests while we were senior years in medical
10 school and while I was in military service, I
11 prepared for the visa and I got it. And after I
12 finish it, after I got out of the Air Force, I
13 prepared for the passport to come over here and so
14 I could arrive here in July 23rd of 1970.

15 Q. This program, the exchange of foreign
16 students, is the purpose of it so that you can get
17 training as you said here, better training and then
18 go back to Korea?

19 A. That's the original purpose, but they
20 allow us to stay here permanently. That's how I
21 got granted a visa in the beginning.

22 Q. Why do they allow that?

23 A. They need -- United States need very
24 badly the doctors, medical doctors.

25 Q. Doesn't Korea need them? Isn't that the

1 reason they let you come here?

2 A. Korea need them too, but we have pretty
3 reasonable number of doctors already covering the --
4 all over the place.

5 Q. Where did you go -- by the way, are you
6 married, sir?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Children?

9 A. I have two children.

10 Q. Okay. Is this your only marriage?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. When were you married?

13 A. March of 1967, the year when I graduated
14 from medical school.

15 Q. Okay. When you came here to the United
16 States, where did you go?

17 A. I assigned directly to Fairview General
18 Hospital.

19 Q. You came straight to Cleveland?

20 A. Yeah, Cleveland. Fairview General
21 Hospital there. I did rotating internship.

22 Q. When you say you were assigned, who was
23 it that determined where you were going to go, if
24 you know?

25 A. We applied first. We were supposed to be

1 arranged by the internship and the matching program.
2 But hospital gave me direct contract, so I accepted
3 that. I got out of that program and I came into
4 the hospital directly.

5 Q. All right. I'm confused. You're going
6 to have to go slow. You're saying part of this
7 program is being assigned somewhere here for
8 training?

9 A. There was one of the systems, we call it
10 N-I-M-P.

11 Q. NIMP?

12 A. Yeah, NIMP.

13 Q. What does that stand for?

14 A. National Internship Matching Program.

15 Q. Is that the program you came here under?

16 A. That's just doing the matching and
17 arranging.

18 Q. I see. They set up where you're going to
19 go?

20 A. Yeah. I got out of there and I directly
21 come into west side, Fairview General Hospital.

22 Q. How did you get out of it?

23 A. If I make a contract with individual
24 hospital, that's done.

25 Q. Did you know somebody at Fairview you

1 could do that with?

2 A. One of my friends one year ahead of me
3 stayed there and gave me all the information.
4 That's why I chose that.

5 Q. Who was that?

6 A. Dr. Choi. In the anesthesia department.

7 Q. Dr. Choi?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. He's also in the anesthesia department?

10 A. He's anesthesiologist in Fairview General
11 Hospital now.

12 Q. He had been there and knew you and he
13 gave you the information?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. That then let you get out of this
16 matching program, which would have put you
17 somewhere else, and come to work at Fairview?

18 A. Right.

19 Q. And the purpose of that was for you to
20 get better additional training?

21 A. Right.

22 Q. And you did an internship you say at
23 Fairview?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. How long was that?

1 A. That was one year.

2 Q. One year internship in 1970?

3 A. Yeah. From July 1970 to June 1971.

4 Q. Okay. What did you do after that?

5 A. I took pediatric residence in Brooklyn
6 Jewish Hospital.

7 Q. In New York?

8 A. In New York for one year.

9 Q. Pediatric residency?

10 A. Right.

11 Q. What did you do after that?

12 A. After that I came back to Cleveland to
13 take anesthesiologist residence.

14 Q. Residency?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Didn't you like pediatrics?

17 A. I like it, but there was some advantage I
18 took in anesthesia. More peace and quiet in
19 anesthesiology department. Also more chance to get
20 a place for practice in anesthesia.

21 Q. Did you have any problems in New York as
22 far as the pediatric program?

23 A. No. I suppose to go to the second year,
24 but I didn't take that program and I came back here.

25 Q. Did you have somebody in Brooklyn at the

1 hospital there who was in charge of your training?

2 A. There was a director of pediatrics.

3 Q. Who was that?

4 A. I remember. I'm sorry, I cannot remember,
5 but I remember the assistant director, Dr. Ratner,
6 R-a-t-n-e-r.

7 Q. R-a-t --

8 A. R-a-t-n-e-r.

9 Q. N-e-r?

10 A. Right.

11 Q. You decided voluntarily, you're telling
12 me, that you didn't want to continue in pediatrics?

13 A. No, I didn't want to.

14 Q. Okay. So you came back to Cleveland?

15 A. Yeah. St. Luke's Hospital.

16 Q. Okay. That was for the purpose of what?

17 A. To take anesthesiology residence training.

18 Q. Okay. And how long did you do that?

19 A. For three years.

20 Q. Three years. From what years?

21 A. From July, '72 to June, '75.

22 Q. Okay. Who was in charge of your training?

23 A. Dr. Sankey, S-a-n-k-e-y.

24 Q. Is that the same doctor who had been a
25 year ahead of you?

1 A, No. Dr. Sankey is director of
2 anesthesiology.

3 Q. At St. Luke's?

4 Am at St. Luke's Hospital.

5 Q. Okay. After you completed your residency,
6 then what did you do?

7 a, I stayed at staff at St. Luke's Hospital.

8 Q. From 1975 to the present time?

9 A, Right ,

10 Q. Have you worked anyplace else?

11 A, No.

12 Q. Are you part of a group at St. Luke's?

13 a, Yeah.

14 Q. What's the name of the group?

15 A. Anesthesia Associates, Cleveland.

16 Q. Are you a shareholder in that group?

17 Am Yeah.

18 Q. Now Bong have you been a shareholder in
39 that group?

20 A. This new group started '82.

21 Q. You've been a shareholder since it
22 started?

23 A, Yeah.

24 Q. Was there a group before that?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. What was the name of the group before
2 that?

3 A. Cleveland Anesthesia Associates.

4 Q. Were you a shareholder of that group?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. How long were you --

7 A. There was about a year.

8 Q. Okay. How about before that?

9 A. Before then, under Dr. Sankey, Doc Sankey
10 had a group of Anesthesia Associates of St. Luke's.

11 Q. Were you a shareholder of that?

12 A. Yeah. For about three years I remember.

13 Before that I just -- I worked as a staff --
14 employee staff.

15 Q. You're still an employee of the
16 corporation, aren't you?

17 A. Yeah, right.

18 Q. Of the Anesthesia Associates?

19 A. This Anesthesia Associates, I didn't get
20 what you mean by shareholder, but we -- dividing
21 the profits.

22 Q. Okay. That's a shareholder to me. Is it
23 a corporation?

24 A. Not incorporation, but this Anesthesia
25 Associates, Incorporated has a name of Dr. Trusso.

1 Q. Trusso?

2 A. Yeah. He's director of anesthesia
3 department.

4 Q. Do you have an employment contract with
5 that group?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Is your compensation based upon profits
8 of the group?

9 A. Right.

10 Q. Okay. How is the work divided, do you
11 know? Is there something in the employment
12 contract that indicates how long you should work,
13 when you should work?

14 A. There's no such limitation.

15 Q. Who decides that?

16 A. The director.

17 Q. Dr. Trusso?

18 A. Yeah. When Doc Trusso is not in hospital,
19 the second -- assistant director, Dr. Buckley.

20 Q. Buckley?

21 A. Yeah. She's a lady.

22 Q. Okay. How many anesthesiologists are
23 there in the group?

24 A. Nine.

25 Q. Pardon me?

1 A. Nine anesthesiologists. I'm pretty sure.

2 Q. Is it all for St. Luke's?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Have you had any additional training
5 since your residency?

6 A. No. Just postgraduate education.
7 Postgraduate course.

8 Q. I'm sorry?

9 A. Postgraduate course.

10 Q. Course?

11 A. Yes, course. Provided by the university
12 or --

13 Q. What course?

14 A. I attended about four semesters at Case
15 Western Reserve Universities, that is held there,
16 used to be a lecture, and some test.

17 Q. In what courses?

18 A. Postgraduate course.

19 Q. I mean in medicine, in accounting, in
20 what?

21 A. Anesthesia.

22 Q. Anesthesia?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Who teaches that course?

25 A. All the professors in anesthesia

1 department, in Case Western.

2 Q. When did you take those courses?

3 A. When I was senior year in -- no, no, I'm
4 sorry. From two years, one year when I was in
5 junior resident, and another year as senior
6 resident.

7 Q. In the 1970s?

8 A. Yeah. '74 or '75.

9 Q. My question was after your residency,
10 have you had any additional training?

11 A. No.

12 Q. When you say that either Dr. Trusso or
13 his assistant would determine when you worked, was
14 this done monthly? Weekly? Would a schedule come
15 out?

16 A. That means assigning the patient by the
17 schedule or the date of on call and night call.
18 All those kind of assignment being done by our
19 chief,

20 Q. Did the group just have St. Luke's that
21 it covered or were there other hospitals that it
22 covered?

23 A. Just St. Luke's.

24 Q. Was that true in 1984 also?

25 A. 1984, yeah.

1 Q. Do you remember how many
2 anesthesiologists there would have been in the
3 group then?

4 A. 1984, I remember about nine.

5 Q. Okay. Would you have responsibilities or
6 duties that extended beyond the operating room, for
7 example, into the recovery room?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. How is it that that came about?
10 Was that always true, that the anesthesiologist
11 would be responsible for covering a patient into
12 the recovery room?

13 MR. BONEZZI: Objection to the form
14 of the question. You may answer, Doctor.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. That was always true?

17 A. Not always true. Whatever I did, my case,
18 I'm covering in recovery and responsibility is not
19 solely to the anesthesiologist but the surgeon and
20 resident and nurse and us it's shared. The
21 anesthesiologist is most closely watching the
22 patient.

23 Q. If the treating physician leaves, is it
24 then up to you to take care of whatever
25 responsibility he would have theoretically shared

1 with you in the recovery room?

2 MR. BONEZZI: Objection. You can
3 answer.

4 A. I'm sorry. In the recovery room?

5 Q. Yes.

6 A. Whatever case I did?

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. Not always do so. If I'm busy on another
9 case, whatever, that patient -- mainly if
10 anesthesiologist available, they will call, but the
11 case of what I did, I'm responsible.

12 Q. Have you ever been sued before, Doctor?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did you have the night shift
15 responsibility in October of 1984? Was there one
16 anesthesiologist who did night shift or were there
17 more than one or do you remember?

18 A. One anesthesiologist and a nurse
19 anesthetist to stay in hospital and another
20 physician is available.

21 Q. Another what, physician?

22 A. Yeah. Staying at home.

23 Q. On call?

24 A. Yeah. On call.

25 Q. Okay. Would you rotate that position or

1 were you always on nights?

2 A. Not always night. Yeah. We rotate
3 evenly, yeah.

4 Q. How would your shift work? Would you
5 work day and night for 24 hours on, 24 off,
6 something like that?

7 A. Weekend, like Saturday I have to work 24
8 hours.

9 Q. How about a weekday, Tuesday or Wednesday?

10 A. Usually started in afternoon.

11 Q. Started in the afternoon?

12 A. Afternoon when I'm on call, I'm starting
13 in afternoon about 12:00.

14 Q. What time?

15 A. About 12:00, until in the morning of next
16 day.

17 Q. I see.

18 A. At 7:30, whatever.

19 Q. Are there places for you to sleep in the
20 hospital?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Who decides, Doctor, whether a patient
23 after an operation should go to intensive care or
24 into recovery room? Who makes that decision?

25 A. We discuss with anesthesiologist, is

1 discussed with surgeon, most -- both have to agree.

2 Q. Both have to agree?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Who makes a decision, Doctor, as to
5 whether or not a patient can undergo a surgery? Is
6 it the doctor who is going to do the surgery or the
7 anesthesiologist or both? Who makes that decision?

8 MR. BONEZZI: Objection to the form
9 of the question. You may answer.

10 Q. (BY MR. KAMPINSKI) You can answer.

11 A. That's depending on the surgeon.

12 Q. Let's say an orthopedic surgeon.

13 A. Yeah. Orthopedic surgeon, if surgeon say
14 this is necessarily an urgent or how urgent this is
15 or emergency, we listen to a surgeon and make
16 decision made by surgeon.

17 Q. Do you have to give him information so he
18 can make a decision?

19 A. Yeah, for elective case we can do that.
20 But once a surgeon said, This is emergency, most of
21 the case we have following.

22 Q. In other words, once he says it's an
23 emergency, you don't have any input anymore as to
24 whether or not it's appropriate to do surgery, it's
25 just done because it's an emergency?

1 MR. BONEZZI: Objection. You may
2 answer.

3 A. Yeah. But -- okay. Patient is in
4 serious condition, okay, patient that die, okay,
5 there is no hope, if surgeon decided it's not to do,
6 we don't do.

7 Q. I don't understand what you just said.

8 A. Yeah. Surgeon is the one that made the
9 deciding.

10 Q. But my question is to what extent you
11 have input in that decision, and I think you told
12 me, and I don't want to put words in your mouth,
13 you correct me if I'm wrong, if he tells you it's
14 an emergency case, then you really don't have any
15 input, he just goes ahead and he does it?

16 A. Yeah, once he said that.

17 Q. Was Mr. Smith an emergency case on
18 October 17th?

19 A. That was what Dr. Smith said.

20 Q. He told you it was an emergency?

21 A. Doc Smith told resident, resident told me.

22 Q. What resident did he tell?

23 A. Do you want to know the name?

24 Q. Absolutely.

25 A. Dr. Gill, G-i-l-l.

1 Q. Dr. Gill?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Do you know why Dr. Gill went to
4 California? Do you have any idea?

5 A. No. He finish training is why.

6 Q. Dr. Gill was a resident in what,
7 anesthesiology or orthopedics?

8 A. Orthopedics.

9 Q. How do you know that Dr. Smith told Dr.
10 Gill it was an emergency?

11 A. He explained it to me.

12 Q. Who explained it?

13 A. Dr. Gill.

14 Q. Did he tell you why it was an emergency?
15 You tell me what Dr. Gill told you.

16 A. This is an emergency. Should be done.
17 Okay. And I call Doc Smith directly just before
18 the surgery. He was in the hospital in the -- he
19 was in the St. Luke's Hospital. He explained why
20 it had to be done immediately.

21 Q. What did he explain?

22 A. With delaying of surgery, reduction is
23 extremely difficult. It have to be done today.

24 Today at such time. He said about 12:00, but we --
25 nobody was available at 12:00, but we -- that's why

1 I called somebody who is available, the second call.
2 There was nurse anesthetist that was waiting for
3 any kind of emergency case at home, so we call her
4 up, and we started immediately about 3:00.

5 Q. Let's go slow. Let's back up a little
6 because I want to make sure I understand exactly
7 what you were told, Doctor. The resident, the
8 orthopedic resident approached you first?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. That was Dr. Gill?

11 A. Right.

12 Q. Where in the hospital did he approach you?
13 Is there someplace within the hospital that you
14 stay? Do you have offices for the
15 anesthesiologists?

16 A. I understand he was in hospital.

17 Q. Where did he come and see you at?

18 A. Out by the phone. I was in operating
19 suit.

20 Q. You were in the *operating* suit?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. You had another case that you were doing?

23 A. Two cases were going on.

24 Q. Dr. Gill, was he in one of those
25 surgeries?

1 A. No.

2 Q. He called you?

3 A. Right.

4 Q. He told you that there was an emergency
5 that had to be done?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Did he tell you what the nature of the
8 emergency was or did he tell you to call Dr. Smith?

9 A. That was the case. It was on the -- what
10 is it -- three days ago, and was -- he explained he
11 was in the SICU after surgery and he has, I don't
12 know, bad heart and lungs.

13 Q. This is Dr. Gill telling you?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. He's got a bad heart and lung. What else?

16 A. That's all. But it have to be done.
17 That's all he told me.

18 Q. Did he tell you why it had to be done?

19 A. Why it had to be done. With delaying, it
20 made extremely difficult because unable to reduce
21 some of the dislocated hip.

22 Q. Dr. Gill told you the same thing as Dr.
23 Smith?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Did Dr. Gill or Dr. Smith or anybody tell

1 you how it became dislocated?

2 A. Yeah. It was dislocated.

3 Q. Did they tell you how it became
4 dislocated?

5 A. At that point I didn't ask him how.

6 Q. Whether you asked or not, did anybody
7 tell you?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Did you ever find out?

10 A. No, I didn't find out.

11 Q. Do you know now as you sit here today,
12 how it became dislocated?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Is it your job as an anesthesiologist to
15 get information about the patient to determine what
16 you might have to do either during the operation or
17 after the operation? For example, you told me that
18 Dr. Gill told you he had a bad heart and lung.
19 That is important for you as an anesthesiologist to
20 know?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. He also told you there was a surgery
23 three days earlier?

24 A. Right.

25 Q. And you said that he told you that he

1 went to SICU after that?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Did you go see the patient?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. You did?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Checked him out?

8 A. Patient was in the room.

9 Q. In what room?

10 A. In his regular floor.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Third floor.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. And I found he was in SICU for, I counted
15 time, four hours.

16 Q. You looked at the chart then?

17 A. Yeah. I read his SICU chart.

18 Q. Did you review his entire chart?

19 A. I tried to review. I cannot say entire,
20 but --

21 Q. The important things, lab readings,
22 things like that, right?

23 A. I tried to review, yeah.

24 Q. Did you review the nurses' notes,
25 doctors' orders, lab results, did you review those

1 things?

2 A. Yeah. Honestly, I have to say I read
3 everything that was posted in the chart.

4 Q. I'm sorry. You reviewed the laboratory
5 findings that were posted in the chart?

6 A. Which was posted in the chart, front page
7 of the laboratory test.

8 Q. Well, you looked at the date of it,
9 didn't you?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And you saw that the one that you
12 reviewed was three days earlier, didn't you? You
13 know what I'm talking about, don't you, Dr. Lee?

14 A. That's what I found later.

15 Q. You prepared a form, an anesthesia form,
16 right, for preparatory to the man going to surgery,
17 which was wrong, didn't you?

18 MR. BONEZZI: Objection. You can
19 answer.

20 Q. (BY MR. KAMPINSKI) Didn't you, sir?

21 A. Yeah, I'm supposed to, yeah.

22 Q. Why was it wrong, Doctor?

23 A. I'm sorry, I looked at the one sheet.

24 Q. Why don't you show me what you looked at.
25 There's the original record.

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. You can refer to page numbers so that we
3 know exactly what you're talking about.

4 A. Okay. Page 126.

5 Q. And why don't you identify what page 126
6 is for the record.

7 A. Okay. Laboratory findings in 126.

8 Q. The next page is what, 127?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Then 128 follows after that?

11 A. Right.

12 Q. 129, these are all laboratory findings,
13 aren't they?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Were they all -- and 130, 131, 132, did
16 you look at all of them, 133, did you look at all
17 of them, sir?

18 A. I don't remember if I looked at all of
19 them. What I -- what I picked out of the date in
20 the first page.

21 Q. Why don't you find your presurgery report,
22 Doctor, in the record. What page is that, Doctor?

23 A. 152.

24 Q. Okay. You prepared that, did you not?

25 A. Right, I did.

1 Q. And you prepared that before surgery?

2 A. Yeah, before surgery.

3 Q. It's dated November 17th, right?

4 A. Right.

5 Q. And proposed operation, CR, what's that
6 stand for?

7 A. Closed reduction.

8 Q. This is all in your writing; is that
9 correct? This entire sheet?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. You put down his age, his height, his
12 weight, and his blood pressure?

13 A. Right.

14 Q. Where did you get the blood pressure?
15 Did you take it yourself?

16 A. No. From the nurses' notes.

17 Q. From the nurses' notes. Why don't you
18 find the nurses' notes where you got that blood
19 pressure from.

20 A. In the admitting nurse's notes.

21 Q. The admitting nurses' notes?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. When was he admitted, Doctor?

24 A. I remember November 12th.

25 Q. Page 40 you're looking at? Why don't you

1 tell me what page you're looking at, Doctor.

2 A. Page 68.

3 Q. Page 68. Why did you take his blood
4 pressure off the admitting note, Doctor?

5 A. That's his normal blood pressure in the
6 regular time. That's why I took it.

7 Q. Did you make that assumption or you knew
8 that to be a fact?

9 A. I cannot answer it.

10 Q. Why not?

11 A. With --

12 Q. Did you compare it with other blood
13 pressures in the chart to come to a conclusion that
14 that was his normal blood pressure? Why did you
15 pick that one as opposed to any other one in his
16 chart?

17 A. He was under medications.

18 Q. Yeah.

19 A. And that medication worked and his blood
20 pressure was controlled in beginning.

21 Q. So.

22 A. That's all.

23 Q. What medication was he on?

24 A. I'm sorry, I have to look at it. He was
25 on Hydralazine for the blood pressure.

1 Q. You can go back to page 152. We're going
2 to be talking about that for a little bit,

3 A. And Lasix for the diuretic purpose.

4 Q. Okay. And what's the next thing on that
5 line, Doctor? It looks like X plus or U plus.
6 What is that?

7 A. That's potassium.

8 Q. Potassium?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Next thing under medical history -- it's
11 important for you as an anesthesiologist to take
12 history, isn't it?

13 A. Right.

14 Q. That's why this box is there, right?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And did you go through the chart to get a
17 full. and complete history so that you could
18 adequately deal with this patient both before,
19 during and after surgery, sir?

20 A. I tried to do my best in given time,

21 Q. I'm sure you did. But the question is
22 did you go through the chart to try to get a full,
23 complete, fair history?

24 A. I cannot say it.

25 Q. All right. When it says HPT for cardiac,

1 what does that mean?

2 A. Hypertension.

3 Q. Hypertension. You knew that Mr. Smith
4 was hypertensive. What does that mean, Doctor?

5 A. Hypertension may arise heart problem,
6 including congestive heart failure or left
7 ventricle hypertrophy. That means big or large
8 heart combined with congestive heart failure also
9 it can cause.

10 Q. Does it have an effect on blood pressure?

11 A. Blood pressure, high blood pressure may
12 cause heart failure, yeah.

13 Q. Is that important for you as an
14 anesthesiologist to know that he had hypertension?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Was it important to determine whether it
17 was because of cardiomegaly or because of
18 congestive heart failure? Was that important for
19 you?

20 A. Right.

21 Q. All right. And did you determine whether
22 or not he was in congestive heart failure before
23 allowing the surgery to go forward?

24 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

25 A. Yeah, it is important.

1 Q. Did you determine that, whether he was in
2 congestive heart failure?

3 A. Yeah.

4 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

5 A. Right.

6 Q. Was he?

7 A. He was -- by my record, it didn't say any --
8 he had congestive heart failure.

9 Q. We know your record's wrong, don't we?

10 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

11 A. No.

12 Q. We don't know that?

13 A. There was no diagnosis of congestive
14 heart failure in the beginning.

15 Q. By whom? By you or by anybody else?

16 A. By anybody else.

17 Q. Okay. How about any -- let's go on. The
18 next thing is respiratory. What's that say, Doctor?

19 A. COPD means chronic obstructive pulmonary
20 disease.

23. Q. Why is that important for you to put down?

22 A. That's important because the gas exchange --
23 air exchange in the lung and oxygenation of the
24 blood is vital to the patient.

25 Q. It's vital to the patient?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Why was he in the surgical intensive care
3 unit after the first operation? Did you check that
4 out, Doctor?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Why?

7 A. Cardiopulmonary problem.

8 Q. What were the nature of the problems that
9 caused him to be put into SICU?

10 A. It was impairment of ventilation, also
11 very uncontrollable high blood pressure and also
12 impairment of air exchange -- impairment of
13 ventilation, and also uncontrollable blood pressure.

14 Q. What does CNS stand for?

15 A. Central nervous system.

16 Q. You've got a zero there. No problems?

17 A. Yeah, no problem.

18 Q. Renal, no problems?

19 A. No problem.

20 Q. Endocrine, liver, hematologic, no
21 problems?

22 A. No problems.

23 Q. In the next box, Doctor, you've got
24 review of systems. Under remarks, what I'd like
do, if you would

1 findings are and what they mean.

2 A. Okay. Remarks?

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. There was arterial blood gas. It was
5 done on November 15th.

6 Q. Um-hmm.

7 A. Arterial blood pH is 7.36. PCO2, tension
8 of oxygen in the blood, 44. PO2, tension of oxygen
9 of 17. Hemoglobin, percentage of hemoglobin
10 saturation with oxygen, 93. BC means bicarbonate.
11 Sodium bicarbonate -- I mean bicarbonate is 34.
12 That means acceptable arterial blood gas.

13 Q. You got this off of one on what, November
14 15th?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. That would be page what, 134 for the
17 record, Doctor? If you'd turn to page 134 and tell
18 me if that's what you got that information from.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Okay. And were all those -- were all
21 those normal, Doctor?

22 A. Yeah, I would say pretty good.

23 Q. Okay. A little low, aren't they, PCO2
24 and the PO2?

25 A. PO2 is a little low, yeah, but is

1 acceptable.

2 Q. Okay. But that was what, two days before?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Had any been done since then?

5 A. I didn't see any record of that.

6 Q. Did you order any?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Why not?

9 A. I didn't expect any -- I didn't suspect
10 any getting worse since the respiration remain the
11 same in nursing notes.

12 Q. So you looked at the nursing notes?

13 A. I directly asked to the patient, he can
14 breathe all right? But to me, it was a shortness
15 of breath. But shortness of breath had been
16 staying since he got out of the surgical intensive
17 care unit. I assume that's staying stable.

18 Q. But you looked at the nurses' notes to
19 determine that respirations had stayed pretty
20 stable, right?

21 A. Right.

22 Q. Well, if you looked at the nurses' notes,
23 you realize Mr. Smith had had indications of coffee
24 ground emesis; you're aware of that?

25 A. No.

1 Q. You just told me you looked at the
2 nurses' notes. You didn't see that in the nurses'
3 notes, Doctor? Show me the nurses' notes that
4 showed his respirations to be, I think -- and I
5 don't want to put -- misphrase what you said, but I
6 think you said stable. The same maybe. Show me
7 where it says that.

8 A. Okay. ABD wedge in place, respiration
9 unlabeled, resting, and quietly in bed. This was
10 November 16th.

11 Q. What page is that, Doctor?

12 A. 71.

13 MR. BONEZZI: Excuse me. These
14 records also contain SICU records?

15 MR. KAMPINSKI: I think they do.

16 MS. BARTNIK: It's the whole chart.

17 Q. (BY MR. KAMPINSKI) So you read page 71,
18 right?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Read page 72 and 73, is that correct,
21 Doctor? Right?

22 MR. BONEZZI: Look at it, Doctor.

23 A. Yeah. I didn't pay any attention on this
24 blood loss.

25 Q. On what, on the blood loss?

1 A. No, I mean the coffee ground.

2 Q. You see that now, don't you, page 73, I
3 believe the 2:30 p.m. entry? Would that have made
4 any difference to you, Doctor?

5 A. I looked at it and passed over it.

6 Q. You looked at it and passed over it. Not
a important to you?

8 MR. BONEZZI: Objection. You may
9 answer, Doctor.

10 A. I didn't pay any attention to this.

11 Q. If you would have seen it, would it have
12 been important to you, Doctor?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Why is that, sir?

15 A. Any low blood count.

16 Q. Why is that important especially in a
17 patient who is having difficulty breathing with
18 respiration? Why is low blood count important?

19 A. This emesis you mean?

20 Q. Yeah. That's what I thought we were
21 talking about.

22 A. It's just I'm -- the blood count is the
23 carrier of the oxygen for the exchange, so when you
24 ask me, I can say that, but on this patient, I
25 didn't look at this part.

1 Q. I understood that. I understood it when
2 you said it, I still understand it. My question is
3 if you would have seen it, would it have been
4 important to you?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Okay. And the reason it would have been
7 important is what? What is the importance of the
8 patient having coffee ground emesis?

9 A. A blood loss.

10 Q. Why is that important to you as an
11 anesthesiologist for the purposes of deciding
12 whether or not somebody is suitable to go to
13 surgery?

14 A. If blood loss, too much blood loss causes
15 anemia.

16 Q. Right.

17 A. That anemia deteriorating and vascular
18 homeostatic, that's lowering blood pressure, so it
19 indicate intravascular blood volume may cause some
20 change in vital signs and oxygen carrying capacity
21 will be decreased.

22 Q. Making the heart work harder?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Putting an additional strain on an
25 already weakened heart perhaps --

1 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

2 Q. -- if a person already had a weakened
3 heart?

4 A. Yeah, I understand, yeah.

5 Q. What is in your opinion, Dr. Lee, a
6 significant blood loss in a patient having a
7 hemoglobin level of let's say 15?

8 A. 15 is quite normal.

9 Q. Right. What would you say would be a
10 significant blood loss in such a person?

11 MR. BONEZZI: Are you asking if
12 there is increase in the hemoglobin?

13 MR. KAMPINSKI: Yeah.

14 Q. Generally.

15 A. There was some blood loss.

16 MR. BONEZZI: That's not the
17 question.

18 Q. (BY MR. KAMPINSKI) I'm asking a general
19 question, Doctor. In a person who has got
20 hemoglobin level of 15, what would you consider to
21 be a significant blood loss in such a person? What
22 level would you expect to see for significant blood
23 loss?

24 A. Significant blood loss, we accept this
25 differently. We accept the hemoglobin with 10.

1 Hemoglobin with 10 is significant.

2 Q. But is someone who goes from 15 to 10
3 reflecting the fact that he's losing blood?

4 A. I assume so.

5 Q. And so if you were aware of that, that
6 would cause you some concern as an anesthesiologist
7 for someone who is about to go in for surgery,
8 wouldn't it?

9 A. Hemoglobin 10 perfectly all right. We
10 accept up to hemoglobin 10.

11 Q. You may accept it, but the question is
12 isn't it important to you to know it, because you
13 may not accept it, depending upon what else it
14 tells you, right?

15 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

16 Q. If you knew that there was a loss from 15
17 to 10, you'd know that that person was losing blood,
18 wouldn't you, Doctor?

19 MR. GROEDEL: Objection.

20 Q. Wouldn't you, sir?

21 MR. BONEZZI: You answer.

22 A. Yes, we have to find out.

23 Q. And then you have to find out why he's
24 losing blood, don't you?

25 A. Right, right.

1 Q. And if in fact that person has coffee
2 ground emesis, that's a clue, isn't it, as to why
3 he might be losing blood?

4 MR. BONEZZI: Objection. You may
5 answer.

6 A. He had surgery.

7 Q. I understand.

8 A. He lost blood before and here this -- the
9 coffee ground emesis, it can be a part of the
10 course.

11 Q. It can also be a hemorrhage, can't it?

12 MR. BONEZZI: Objection. You may
13 answer.

14 A. Could be because -- indicate blood
15 compensation from the first surgery too.

16 Q. You checked all these things out, you
17 checked out what it was, right?

18 A. Blood count, human blood count.

19 Q. I mean, you're telling me these things
20 that it could be and you as an anesthesiologist
23, getting a patient ready for surgery, you went and
22 determined what it was, right?

23 A. No.

24 Q. No. Why not?

25 A. All my information is from the first time

2 hemoglobin and I assumed that he lost some blood.
2 I don't know. But I didn't check it.

3 Q. If you would have checked it, Doctor, and
4 seen the result that was there to be seen,
5 apparently, on November 17th, would you have done
6 any further investigation as to the reason for the
7 blood loss?

8 MR. BONEZZI: Objection. You may
9 answer.

10 A. I would have gone by the last result of
E1 the hemoglobin.

12 Q. I understand you would have gone by it
13 because that's what it was. The question is what
14 would you have done about it? Would you have done
15 anything? Would you have checked further or done
16 additional tests or suggested additional tests to
17 try to find out why this man was losing the blood
18 four days post surgery?

19 A. I didn't pay any attention apart.

20 Q. I know that. My question is if you had
21 known it, if you would have known it, if you would
22 have seen it or if somebody would have told you or
23 if Dr. Jackson would have been notified and he
24 would have told you he ordered additional blood
25 work done because of this man's falling hemoglobin,

1 if you would have been told those things or seen
2 those things, would you have asked for additional
3 tests or done additional tests yourself to try to
4 find out why this man was losing blood?

5 A. Yeah, I should have done that.

6 Q. And none of that was done, was it, sir?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Doctor, were you aware of the fact that
9 there was a KUB taken on Mr. Smith?

10 A. I didn't know.

11 Q. You never looked at it, right?

12 A. I didn't look at any other finding except
13 chest x-rays.

14 Q. Were you aware of any lab abnormalities
15 after the first surgery? Did you check out any of
E6 the tests or results from the first surgery?

17 A. I don't remember.

18 Q. What page again was your anesthesia --

19 MR. BONEZZI: 152.

20 Q. Did you put down any other abnormalities
21 on here? For example, what's a 2 percent MB
22 fraction on a CPK? Do you know what that is,
23 Doctor?

24 A. That CPK is specific for the heart
25 cardiopulmonary muscle injury.

E Q. What's 2 percent MB fraction?

2 A. I'm sorry, I don't have any idea what it
3 is.

4 Q. I know. If you would have seen it, you
5 wouldn't have known what it was?

6 A. No. I didn't see that part.

7 Q. I'm not asking you if you saw that, but
8 I'm asking you if you know what it is. Do you know
9 what a 2 percent MB fraction is?

10 A. Can I see -- what page?

11 Q. Do you know what a 2 percent MB fraction
12 is, Doctor? Either you do or you don't. Do you,
13 sir?

14 A. No, I don't know.

15 Q. Okay. The hematocrit that you've got
16 under your lab ASA status, where was that taken
17 from, Doctor?

18 A. 48.9.

19 Q. Right.

20 A. Supposed to be from the laboratory sheet.

21 Q. Once again, what page was that just so
22 there's no confusion?

23 A. 126.

24 Q. 126?

25 A. Right.

1 Q. Could you show me where on 126?

2 A. 126, November 12th where it was admitting
3 blood test.

4 Q. So the very first one at the top of that
5 page that says November 12th?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Doesn't it have other ones on there,
8 Doctor?

9 A. Oh, yeah. He has other ones.

10 Q. It's got November 15th, November 16th on
11 there, doesn't it, on the bottom of that page, that
12 same page?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Page 126. Does it have further
15 hemoglobin, hematocrit levels, tests?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Is it your testimony, Doctor, that this
18 was the page that was in the chart at the time that
19 you filled out your form?

20 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

21 A. Yeah. I took this.

22 Q. Why didn't you take the bottom part? Why
23 didn't you look at that?

24 A. I missed it.

25 Q. It showed that his blood level was

7
1 falling daily, didn't it, looking

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Didn't it?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And in your looking thru

6 did you see any investigation by a

3 that was occurring?

8 A. No.

9 Q. What's the K for, going back to page 152?

10 That's your next entry.

11 A. Potassium.

12 Q. 4.6?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Where did you get that level from?

15 A. There was a first potassium available in

16 the chart. Yeah, page 130. That's November 12th.

17 Q. Were there later ones taken?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Where are those?

20 A. Last one was November 16th, 4.4.

21 Q. What page is that?

22 A. 131, 4.1, the last one.

23 Q. I'm sorry, 13 --

24 A. Page 131. Upper part. Yes. Last one,

25 4.1.

1 Q. How about the BUN/CR, BUN creatinine?

2 A. Yeah. BUN creatinine changes manifest
3 renal function.

4 Q. Where did you take that from?

5 A. That same page, 131, first -- 131. BUN
6 creatinine, went down on November 14th.

7 Q. Okay. Then you've got EKG. What does
8 that -- what's that say after EKG?

9 A. Okay. Pretty much atrial contraction and
10 left ventricular strain.

11 Q. What does that mean?

12 A. Atrial contraction is atrium is causing
13 an extra beat.

14 Q. Causing an extra beat?

15 A. Yeah. Left ventricular strain is another
16 word, left ventricle is enlarged because of the
17 high blood pressure or some other increased
18 pulmonary pressures.

19 Q. Because of the pulmonary pressures?

20 A. Either one.

21 Q. Are you saying because of pulmonary
22 pressures the ventricle was enlarged?

23 A. Increased pulmonary resistance, that
24 means in the case of congestive heart failure --

25 Q. I thought you told me there was no

1 diagnosis of congestive heart failure?

2 A. It can be the cause of -- no, not confirm
3 the diagnosis here.

4 Q. I don't see a diagnosis anywhere of
5 congestive heart failure. Could you show me where
6 that is, Doctor, anywhere in this chart?

7 A. There's still no confirm the diagnosis,
8 but in chest x-ray source, possible intervascular
9 marking due to possibly either left ventricular
10 enlargement or congestive heart failure. Something
11 like that.

12 Q. Something like that?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Where did you get this information that
15 you put next to EKG? You didn't put it next to
16 chest x-ray, which was what you were talking about,
17 but you put it next to EKG. Where did you get that
18 information?

19 A. The EKG is from the first EKG reading.

20 Q. Were there more than one?

21 A. Yeah, there was more than one, but it
22 would be the first page here.

23 Q. What page?

24 A. 136.

25 Q. The PAC and ventricular strain, left

1 ventricular --

2 A. Anterior -- left ventricular --

3 Q. He said left ventricular strain. I take
4 it you're reading now from page 136, right?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Then it says anterior lateral wall
7 myocardial ischemia, correct? That's what it says?

8 A. Yeah, correct.

9 Q. What does that mean? Does that mean
10 evidence of damage from a heart attack?

11 A. Not because of damage.

12 Q. Myocardial ischemia?

13 A. Circulation, coronary circulation doesn't
E4 give enough oxygen to the myocardial tissues.

15 Q. That's what happens in a heart attack,
16 doesn't it?

17 A. It can cause heart attack.

18 Q. Did you put that down under EKG?

19 A. No, I didn't.

20 Q. Is that important to you as an
21, anesthesiologist to know?

22 A. Yeah, that's important.

23 Q. Where are the other EKGs that were taken
24 that you were talking about, Doctor? Would you
25 tell me where they are, please? I thought you told

1 me there were other EKGs. Where did they disappear
2 to, Doctor?

3 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

4 Q. What happened to them? Did you order one?

5 A. No, I didn't order them.

6 Q. Why not?

7 A. Indicated from --

8 Q. I'm sorry?

9 A. All these came from surgical intensive
10 care units. Indicated from surgical intensive care.
11 This is rhythm strip, but you can see how it was.

12 Q. That's something else, an EKG?

13 A. No, not --

14 Q. So there were no other EKGs?

15 A. I didn't -- I don't know.

16 Q. Was this EKG on the 14th done before
17 surgery?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Is that standard on somebody who has
20 cardiology problems such as Mr. Smith to do an EKG
21 to determine whether or not there's any additional
22 insult to the heart taking place right before
23 surgery, sir?

24 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

25 Q. Is that normal to do an EKG on someone

1 such as this before surgery?

2 A. I don't remember. But --

3 MR. BONEZZI: Doctor, listen to his
4 question. He asked whether or not it's normal to
5 take one before someone goes to surgery. That was
6 his question.

7 Q. (BY MR. KAMPINSKI) Is it?

8 A. I don't know. I don't remember whether
9 medical clearance was done with this EKG or not. I
10 don't know.

11 Q. Would it surprise you, Doctor, to know
12 that Dr. Smith has testified that you're the one
13 that cleared this patient for surgery? Would that
14 surprise you, sir?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Did you clear Mr. Smith for surgery or
17 did Dr. Smith clear Mr. Smith for surgery? Who
18 cleared this man for surgery on November 17th?

19 A. Dr. Smith.

20 Q. Would it surprise you to know that he
21 says you're the one that cleared him for surgery?
22 Would that surprise you, Doctor?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Were you assuming that he was the one
25 that was clearing this man for surgery?

I A. We had to together. Had to be together.

2 Q. All right. And together you're saying
3 that you were partially responsible for the
4 clearance of this man for surgery?

5 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

6 A. The final decision to do the surgery is
7 his.

8 Q. Is his?

9 A. Yeah.

a0 Q. Does he rely on input from you in making
11 that final decision?

12 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

a3 Q. Do you have to go to him to say, Fine,
14 this man can undergo surgery, in my opinion?

15 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

16 A. Yeah.

17 MR. BONEZZI: Listen to his question,
18 Doctor.

19 Q. Do you understand? Doctor, please, I'm
20 not trying to trick you, but I do want answers to
21 my question. If you don't understand them, tell me
22 you don't. I'll rephrase them as many times as I
23 have to.

24 MR. BONEZZI: He's talking about
25 surgery now. Nothing other than surgery.

1 A. Um-hmm. Not in very good condition for
2 surgery, but is acceptable for spinal anesthesia is
3 what I gave my opinion.

4 Q. So it was your opinion that this man was
5 acceptable for a spinal anesthetic, but as you sit
6 here today, you're telling me that it's your
7 opinion he was not a good candidate for surgery,
8 period?

9 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

10 Q. Whatever surgery was going to be done?

11 A. No, not good condition at the time.

12 Q. Why is that, in your opinion, sir?

13 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

14 Q. To a reasonable degree of medical
15 certainty.

16 MR. BONEZZI: As he looks at it now?

17 MR. KAMPINSKI: As he looks at it
18 right now.

19 MR. BONEZZI: Objection. You may
20 answer.

21 A. Okay. High blood pressure. The way of
22 breathing in the shortness of breath. That's all I
23 remember.

24 Q. How about the loss of blood?

25 A. I didn't check the loss of blood.

Q. I understand that.

MR. BONEZZI: That's not what he's asking, Doctor. Listen to his question.

A. Loss of blood, it didn't matter much with the spinal anesthesia.

MR. BONEZZI: Doctor, listen to his question. He's still asking about the surgery, not about you giving clearance for anesthesia.

MR. KAMPINSKI: Right.

MR. BONEZZI: Do you understand?

A. Loss of blood -- I'm sorry. You ask me again.

Q. You were telling me why in your opinion you didn't think Mr. Smith was a good candidate for surgery, and you gave me two reasons, and I asked you if an additional reason would be the loss of blood that Mr. Smith was undergoing. Would that also be a reason for his not being a good candidate for surgery? When I say surgery, I mean the surgery he underwent, that is, the reduction, or the attempted reduction of his hip replacement, as opposed to any other type of surgery such as trying to find out why he was bleeding.

A. Yeah.

MR. GROEDEL: Objection.

1 MR. BONEZZI: You may answer.

2 A. Possibly he is to open and during same
3 kind of procedure, hip prosthesis, at that point he
4 was no blood -- in case of open reduction --

5 Q. We're talking about closed reduction.

6 A. Closed reduction, he's acceptable.

7 Q. For what, surgery?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Or for anesthesia?

B0 A. For both ways -- for both.

11 Q. How was the operation? Was it fairly
12 straight forward? Was it an easy procedure or did
13 they have to expose Mr. Smith to a great deal of
14 force and pressure?

15 A. I don't remember well, but it was all
16 right. The procedure was all right. Reduced the
17 dislocated hip successfully.

18 Q. How long did it take, Doctor?

19 A. I have to see.

20 Q. Sure.

21 A. About an hour.

22 (Short recess was taken.)

23 Q. (BY MR. KAMPINSKI) Dr. Lee, let me just
24 clear up a couple things. You started to tell me
25 about open reduction. Am I correct, sir, in

1 assuming that one of the reasons you didn't do
2 anything further is that you were told that this
3 was an emergency situation?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Is that a fair statement?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And you were told that by both Dr. Gill
8 and by Dr. Smith?

9 A. Right.

10 Q. And the reason they told you it was an
11 emergency was what?

12 A. If delayed, it's extremely difficult to
13 reduce the dislocated hip.

14 Q. So that delays would cause additional
15 difficulty?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And that's what you were told?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And so you just went along with their
20 decision to do this as an emergency?

21 A. Yeah, I assumed that, yeah.

22 Q. Okay. If it wouldn't have been an
23 emergency or if you would have been told that this
24 was elective, that it could be done a day later,
25 two days a week, three weeks, would you have done

1 anything different in terms of your work-up before
2 surgery?

3 MR. GROEDEL: Objection.

4 MR. BONEZZI: You may answer, Doctor.

5 A. Yeah. I would have done differently.

6 Q. What would you have done, sir?

7 MR. GROEDEL: Objection.

8 A. I would repeat all the level tests and I
9 would like to do it on the weekday where everybody
10 is around, all the anesthesiologists staying on the
11 floor.

12 Q. Why is that?

13 A. So that means more help immediate.

14 Q. Did you need help?

15 A. Yeah, I assumed so.

16 Q. Why did you need more help?

17 A. I cannot say. I'm sorry. Start with
18 good helpers to start an IV line and monitoring
19 system, arterial line or CVP central line, whatever
20 needed.

21 Q. Did you have that help that night?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Why not?

24 A. Well, I had this extra nurse available,
25 so I started, but we monitored everything. Blood

1 pressure, in my judgment at that time --

2 Q. I'm sorry, your what?

3 A. I had monitoring system available.

4 Q. You did or didn't have?

5 A. I did. One of the nurses was enough to
6 give me hand.

7 Q. Who was the nurse that you're talking
8 about?

9 A. Nurse anesthetist.

10 Q. Who was that?

11 A. Name is Joan Allen.

12 Q. What was his name?

13 A. Joan Allen, J-o-a-n, first name, last
14 name Allen, A-l-l-e-n.

15 Q. Joan Allen, is that a man or woman?

16 A. Lady. CRNA.

17 Q. She's what?

18 A. Certified Resident Nurse Anesthetist.

19 Q. Doctor, did you ever get a degree in this
20 country or medical license?

21 A. Medical license, yes.

22 Q. When was that?

23 A. That was -- first one, first I took exam '73,
24 Pennsylvania.

25 Q. '73 where?

1 A. '72 -- September of '73 I got
2 Pennsylvania license and September of -- maybe I'm
3 wrong. September of '73 I got Ohio license by
4 reciprocity.

5 Q. How is it you got a Pennsylvania license?
6 You didn't tell me about any schooling or anything
7 you did in Pennsylvania.

8 A. Because I took their --

9 Q. The test?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Why would you take it in Pennsylvania as
12 opposed to Ohio or New York or someplace where you
13 were? What was there about Pennsylvania that
14 attracted you there? Easier test or what?

15 MR. BONEZZI: Objection. You may
16 answer, Doctor.

17 A. The requirement was lower. The
18 requirement for documentation is easier.

19 Q. In Pennsylvania?

20 A. Yeah. Then passing rate is high.

21 Q. Then after a while you can just get
22 reciprocity from another state without having to
23 take an additional test?

24 A. Ohio, without test.

25 Q. In Ohio you got one just on reciprocity?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Did you ever have to take any -- or any
3 additional tests anywhere for any additional
4 licensing or were you just able to renew that every
5 year?

6 A. Renew that every year or every two years.
7 It's just -- it's changing.

8 Q. Okay. Are you board certified, Doctor?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Okay. Did you ever take the test for
11 board certification?

12 A. Yeah, I took.

13 Q. When did you take it?

14 A. Last one, I took oral test last year, but
15 I didn't make it,

16 Q. How many times have you taken it?

17 A. The oral test was six times.

18 Q. Okay. How about the written?

19 A. Written, twice.

20 Q. Have you ever passed any of them?

21 A, Both written I passed,

22 Q. But not the oral?

23 A. Not the oral. part,

24 Q. Ail right. When did you call this Joan
25 Allen?

1 A. After I checked the patient.

2 Q. Let me get the chronology right. You
3 were called about 2:00, I think you said, by Dr.
4 Gill?

5 A. Yeah, before 2:00. At that time we had
6 two emergency cases going on.

7 Q. What time did you go up to see the
8 patient, just approximately?

9 A. Around 2:30.

10 Q. 2:30. And what time did you call Joan
11 Allen?

12 A. About 2:30.

13 Q. All right. And Joan Allen was what, just
14 somebody on call who could come in and assist you?

15 A. Yeah. She's the person waiting for
16 emergency case.

17 Q. And she came in to assist you in this
18 particular case, in the Smith case?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Did you have anybody assisting you in the
21 two other emergencies?

22 A. Two other emergencies?

23 Q. Yes. When you were first called about
24 Mr. Smith.

25 A. I was supervising. No, I'm sorry. I

1 have to recollect. When I was called in the
2 morning before 12:00, I was supervising two of them.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. And one case lasted longer. There was
5 one -- I'm sorry. I can not remember well, but two
6 cases, one was done earlier, another case, some
7 abdominal obstruction, case lasted long, and so
8 when this case -- this patient was brought up,
9 still there was a case going on.

10 Q. Who was taking care of that?

11 A. That's certified nurse anesthetist.

12 Q. It was a nurse anesthetist taking care of
13 the other case?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. While you left to do Dr. Smith?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. What would Joan Allen be? What is she
18 again? Also a nurse anesthetist?

19 A. Right.

20 Q. Okay. But she's nowhere in the chart.

21 A. No. She help me in the beginning. We
22 set up the room, I bring in the --

23 Q. Then what, did she stay there or leave or
24 what?

25 A. She have to stay around in the office.

1 Q. She stayed around in the office but she
2 didn't stay in the operating room?

3 A. After starting the case, stayed in office.

4 Q. You stayed in the operating room?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. What about the other surgery, you left
7 that up to the nurse anesthetist?

8 MR. BONEZZI: Objection. You may
9 answer, Doctor.

10 A. Yeah. Nurse anesthetist was taking care
11 of, but I was available in case I needed. I call
12 the nurse anesthetist to my room and was available
13 immediately.

14 Q. Do you recall any problems in the surgery
15 at all?

16 A. This surgery?

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. Low blood pressure. About anesthesia?

19 Q. Anything.

20 A. Patient vital signs, when he -- low blood
21 pressure.

22 Q. Why don't you look at the surgical record.
23 Page 150.

24 A. 150.

25 Q. And 151 on the back. That is all your

1 writing?

2 A. All my writing.

3 Q. All of it?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. You were telling me that there was a
6 problem?

7 A. Low blood pressure, 80 over 50, and I
8 indicated intravenous fluid and put the patient head
9 down, it corrected by itself.

10 Q. This was during the surgery?

11 A. Yeah, during the surgery. And he vomited
12 once. He vomited once yellow-colored vomit. I
13 sucked it out through suction.

14 Q. Where is that?

15 A. I didn't write it down here.

16 Q. So you're recalling that? Do you recall
17 anything else about the surgery?

18 A. About surgery, no, I cannot --

19 Q. Who assisted Dr. Smith, do you remember?
20 Did anybody, or was it just him?

21 A. Maybe Scott Miller.

22 Q. Miller?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. How about Dr. Gill, did he assist?

25 A. I don't remember.

1 Q. But it was Miller, to your recollection?

2 A. Yeah, Miller was.

3 Q. Miller, Smith, yourself. Was anybody
4 else in the operating room?

5 A. Maybe Dr. Gill was, but I don't remember.

6 Q. Okay. Anybody else that you recall, any
7 nurses?

8 A. Nurses, I don't remember any nurses.

9 Q. No nurses?

10 A. No. There was nurse, but I don't
11 remember who was there.

12 Q. Okay. And your job in the surgery was to
13 do what, monitor the vital signs and -- of the
14 patient?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Did you run an EKG during --

17 A. Yeah, EKG.

18 Q. Where is it?

19 A. We don't have record of EKG, but EKG --

20 Q. I see that note there.

21 A. It was atrial fibrillation.

22 Q. Atrial fibrillation he was having during
23 the surgery?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. What does that mean?

1 A. That means atrial -- well, fibrillating,
2 so the sinus node, which is taking the role of
3 pacemaker, is not working.

4 Q. It wasn't firing?

5 A. Wasn't firing. Atrial was fibrillating,
6 so beat is irregular.

7 Q. Did that concern you?

8 A. Yeah, I concerned about that, especially
9 the rate of the ventricular response was very
10 important. It was to indicate through the surgery,
11 not quite hematocrit, but having the same pace as
12 preop, about hundred beat a minute, so I didn't
13 give any treatment.

14 Q. This note that's written in the middle of
15 this chart says "Patient was on CPR after" --
16 what's that say?

17 A. "In the recovery room." This note is
18 quite --

19 Q. "After intubation in recovery room"?

20 A. "Intubation in recovery room, 11:35."

21 Q. This was written at the time of the code?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Okay. What does it say up there in
24 remarks up in the right-hand corner?

25 A. Patient identified. General condition,

1 fair. Spinal anesthesia. Blood pressure was
2 fluctuated.

3 Q. Fluctuating?

4 A. Yeah, fluctuated.

5 Q. How do you give a spinal anesthesia,
6 Doctor? What do you do?

7 A. We give local anesthetics mixed with
8 Dextrose and Feldene and Parafon. Those medicines,
9 the purpose of prolonging the action of local
10 anesthetic effect.

11 Q. And then what do you do?

12 A. I put, we call, intrathecal.

13 Q. Intrathecal means what, between the --

14 A. Into the spinal canal.

15 Q. And what do you put in there?

16 A. Lumbar 3 and 4, between lumbar 3 and 4.

17 Q. L3 and 4?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. What actually did you put in?

20 A. I remember lumbar 3 and 4.

21 Q. What agent do you put into the space?

22 A. Tetracaine mixed with Dextrose.

23 Q. Okay. When you put it in at that level,

24 what does it do? Numb from that level down or from
25 that level up?

1 A. About the second or third level up and
2 all the way down.

3 Q. Is the patient still awake?

4 A. Yeah, he's awake.

5 Q. The patient is awake?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. He was awake on the operating table?

8 A. All the time.

9 Q. He knew what was going on?

10 A. Yeah. First time when they make some
11 manipulation, hasn't complained of pain, but I let
12 them just hold a few more minutes and then pound
13 delicately, anesthetize, so I let them go ahead.

14 Q. He was awake all this time while they
15 were pulling and yanking on his leg?

16 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

17 A. No. They don't -- they're paralyzed.

18 Q. I understand they don't feel anything
19 below the waist. But he's awake?

20 A. He's awake, yeah.

21 Q. Do you recall him saying anything else?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Do you recall any discussions by Dr.
24 Smith or Miller during this procedure as to what
25 had caused it to go out of joint?

1 A. No. I didn't ask about the procedure of
2 the surgery while was going on, I didn't ask. They
3 try every angle and they find out they got it.

4 MR. BONEZZI: Doctor, listen to his
5 question.

6 Q. They tried a bunch of angles and finally
7 they got it?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. On the back of that sheet, 151, it's got
10 post anesthesia note. Is that all written by you?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. When did you write that?

13 A. After pronounce dead.

14 Q. At the top it's got 5:45 p.m. Did you
15 write that?

16 A. That one was immediately after I move the
17 patient into the recovery room.

18 Q. Why don't you tell me what that says.

19 A. "Spinal anesthesia well -- 5:45 p.m.,
20 spinal anesthesia well tolerated though there was
21 fluctuation of blood pressure. It was on -- he was
22 on oxygen nasal prong cannula."

23 Q. Is there something other than nasal
24 cannula that you can do with a patient who is
25 having respiratory distress? Oxygen?

1 A. Yeah, oxygen. Either way can do it.
2 Instead of nasal cannula, mask can be put on. And --

3 Q. Was a mask put on?

4 A. No. This was a nasal cannula instead of
5 mask.

6 Q. Who makes that decision?

7 A. I did.

8 Q. Why did you choose nasal cannula instead
9 of mask?

10 A. Nasal cannula patient can have a better
11 feeling.

12 Q. Better feeling?

13 A. Better feeling, sometime complain of
14 sense of choke with mask. But I left this nasal
15 prong, which was being used from the operating room,
16 and this vent. I didn't feel that should change to
17 any other instrument.

18 Q. Doctor, on page 153, is apparently Dr.
19 Gill's --

20 A. 153.

21 Q. -- report of the surgery.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Do you recall Dr. Gill being there now?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Okay, Now, in the middle of that

1 paragraph, there's a sentence that said, "Note that
2 large amount of force was necessary to reduce this
3 hip."

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. All right. Is it that you just didn't
6 pay attention to the procedure that they were doing,
7 or you just don't recall this requiring a large
8 amount of force? Do you understand my question,
9 Doctor?

10 A. I remember they did hard work. That's
11 all I remember.

12 Q. Hard work?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. When it says patient was transferred to --
15 well, what does that mean when you say they did
16 hard work? Were they sweating? Were they pulling?
17 Were they tugging? Were they beating on the leg?
18 What were they doing?

19 A. They pulled and rotate and wasn't
20 successful in the first time and they did it more,
21 then they take x-ray more than few times and --
22 they kept taking x-rays and they tried pulling,
23 rotating. Each angles. I cannot tell anything in
24 detail.

25 Q. What do you mean you can't tell in detail?

1 Why can't you?

2 A. I paid attention to the patient is
3 general condition.

4 Q. Okay. Was there a decision made to have
5 this patient taken to intensive care after the
6 surgery?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Page 166, I believe?

9 A. There was last part of the recovery room.

10 Q. 167. Expiration summary. Page 2. The
11 last paragraph, the third sentence, Doctor, it says
12 "The patient was transferred to the intensive care
13 unit for recovery." That's not right, is it? He
14 wasn't transferred to intensive care, was he?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Whose decision was it for this patient to
17 go to the recovery room as opposed to the intensive
18 care unit? Yours or Dr. Smith's?

19 A. I think both of us.

20 Q. Well, I mean did you talk about it? When
21 you say you think, who made that decision?

22 A. From the beginning, we didn't think he
23 would go to the intensive care unit.

24 Q. From the beginning, when was that
25 discussed?

1 A. I didn't think this patient needed
2 intensive care at that time. Patient had spinal
3 anesthesia wearing off, minimal one or two hours,
4 and he didn't have any bleeding during the surgery.

5 Q. You mean external bleeding?

6 A. External bleeding.

7 Q. How about internal?

8 A. Internal I cannot say.

9 Q. Well, if you would have known what the
L0 hemoglobin drops were for the preceding four days,
11 would it have been important to maybe try to
12 monitor that?

13 MR. BONEZZI: Objection. You may
14 answer.

15 MR. GROEDEL: Objection.

16 A. The hemoglobin only is not the cause of
17 intensive care needed. This can be compensated
18 with the blood transfusion. It's not have to be
3,9 done -- not necessary need intensive care unit,
20 admission to intensive care unit for lowering blood
21 count.

22 Q. Was a decision made as to who was going
23 to be able to monitor Mr. Smith once he was
24 transferred to the recovery room?

 A, I was the one --

1 Q. Who made that decision? Was that a joint
2 decision or you just took it upon yourself?

3 A. Not the joint decision. We didn't
4 discuss about that.

5 Q. In other words, that was your job?

6 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Okay, Were there also other people
9 within the hospital to whom responsibility could be
10 attached for the continued monitoring of Mr.
11 Smith's condition, for example, the resident Dr.
12 Miller since he was the orthopedic resident?

13 MS. BARTNIK: Objection.

14 MS. DANN: Objection.

15 Q. Do you understand my question?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. What's the answer to it?

18 A. I cannot say whose responsibilities --

19 Q. I mean if the nurse in the recovery room
20 needed to talk to somebody about Mr. Smith while he
21 was in the recovery room, would you be the only one
22 she could talk to or could she talk to someone else?

23 A. She could talk with anybody.

24 Q. Anybody?

25 A. Surgeon or resident.

1 Q. The attending physician?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Or the resident?

4 A. Yeah,

5 Q. But it was your job, it was your
6 responsibility to follow him while he was in the
7 recovery room, I take it; is that correct?

8 A. Right.

9 Q. Starting at page I think 155, I believe
10 that's correct, are the records of the recovery
11 room. Have you reviewed those, Doctor --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- before coming here today?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Now, the very first entry there is 5:25
16 entry?

17 A. Um-hmm.

18 Q. Do you disagree with anything contained
19 in that entry, Doctor?

20 A. I had a different opinion of the
21 multifocal PVC. I explained the nurse this patient
22 had atrial fibrillation during the surgery.

23 Q. You're going to have to speak up so we
24 can all hear you.

25 A. Atrial fibrillation during the surgery,

1 you know, ventricular rates is irregular and also
2 some PVC, some PVC. I counted PVC about less than
3 seven minutes, so I explained there is not to be
4 startled.

5 Q. Not to what?

6 A. Not to be startled.

7 Q. Not to be started what?

8 A. About --

9 Q. Not to be startled?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. This was the nurse at 5:25?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Did you tell that same nurse the same
14 thing later on in the evening at 9:30 or 10:00 --

15 MS. DANN: Objection.

16 Q. -- not to be startled by multifocal PVCs?
17 Did you?

18 MS. DANN: I think it was leading.

19 MR. KAMPINSKI: You're right, I am.

20 Let him answer the question. I want see what his
21 answer is. Page 158 at 8:05, says, "Multifocal
22 PVCs noted."

23 MR. BONEZZI: What's the question?

24 Q. (BY MR. KAMPINSKI) First of all, was it
25 the same nurse, Doctor?

1 A. Different nurses.

2 Q. All right. Did you tell the second nurse
3 the same thing then, not to be alarmed about the
4 multifocal PVCs that she also saw?

5 A. I remember I did because about 6:00
6 something, she called me and she saw this patient
7 after the first nurse left and she startled a
8 little -- the nurse, the previous nurse explained
9 it to her, but she was nervous and called me and I
10 explained. They do -- I explained the same thing
11 to the second nurse.

12 Q. Was Mr. Smith awake during this period of
13 time, Doctor?

14 A. He was -- yeah. He was confused in the
15 middle -- by this chart.

16 Q. Don't you have a recollection without
17 looking at the chart? Do you remember going to see
18 him that evening, his being awake?

19 A. He has been awake most of the time. When
20 I called from the nurse, she was confused, but I
21 checked the patient.

22 MR. BONEZZI: Look at the chart.

23 MR. KAMPINSKI: I want to see if he
24 has a recollection without the chart.

25 MR. BONEZZI: That's fine.

1 Q. If he doesn't, we'll look at the chart.
2 My question to him was do you have a recollection
3 of him being awake that evening without looking at
4 the chart?

5 MR. BONEZZI: He indicated that he
6 remembers that he was awake.

7 Q. You do?

8 A. Yeah --

9 MR. BONEZZI: As it relates to
10 specifics on the chart.

11 A. I explained to nurse I gave Lidocaine
12 twice for the treatment of ventricular beat, that
13 may cause sleepiness, and the nurse seemed to be --
14 seemed to accept it, my explanation. So I checked
15 the patient, I called and he answered and he opened
16 eyes.

17 Q. Was he short of breath when he came into
18 the recovery room, Doctor?

19 A. He was in shortness of breath from --
20 before the surgery.

21 Q. So that was the same?

22 A. Yeah. I found no difference
23 preoperatively -- between preoperative stages of
24 ventilation and postoperative in the recovery room.

Q. Was he on an IV?

2 A. Yeah.

2 Q. What was being given through the IV?

3 A. It was in the recovery room, lactate
4 ringer.

5 Q. Lactate ringer?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. What's that?

8 MR. BONEZZI: Look at the chart,
9 Doctor, make sure what he was on.

10 Q. (BY MR. KAMPINSKI) What's that? What's
11 lactate ringer, Doctor?

12 A. That's really containing the lactate with
13 some salt source.

14 Q. What's it for?

15 A. Provides like minimal potassium.

16 Q. For electrolyte balance?

17 A. Yeah, potassium. Some energy source.

18 Q. Was he placed on Dinamapp by Dr. Smith?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. What's the purpose of that?

21 A. No, not by Dr. Smith. The nurse did.

22 Q. The nurse?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Okay. That first sentence it's got "Dr.
25 Smith visited." Then it says, "Placed on Dinamapp

1 and cardiac monitor."

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Was that your order or Dr. Smith's or
4 whose?

5 A. There's routine order in the recovery.

6 Q. Cardiac monitor is routine in the
7 recovery room?

8 A. Yeah. Any patient with history of heart
9 condition.

10 Q. And do you make a tape of that, of the
11 monitor?

12 A. Beg your pardon?

13 Q. A tape, a readout.

14 A. Not all the time.

15 Q. Why not?

16 A. Reading strip, I don't do that all the
17 time, but nurse, they do once in a while.

18 Q. Can you order it to be done so that when
19 you come in you can see what was going on while you
20 weren't in there? Can you order it done?

21 A. Yes, I can order it, but I didn't feel it
22 necessary because I knew the patient pattern of the
23 EKG.

24 Q. You did?

25 A. I knew what's going on and --

1 Q. Knew this patient pretty well by the time
2 surgery was over, huh?

3 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. What's Neo-Synephrine drip?

6 A. That used for the raising blood pressure
7 up.

8 Q. You ordered it discontinued at 5:40.

9 Page 156. First entry.

10 A. By this record, I can recollect I put it
11 in the patient IV line.

12 Q. It says drip --

13 A. Yeah. It's microdrips. Very minimal
14 size of the IV needle --

15 Q. Wait. Let me stop you. It says
16 Neo-Synephrine drip then it's D --

17 A. D then looks like I?

18 A. Discontinued.

19 Q. Did you stop it or did you start it?

20 A. I stopped. I took it out.

21 Q. Why?

22 A. Blood pressure is reasonably stable and I
23 didn't think they were needed anymore.

24 Q. Who ordered it? You?

25 A. I did.

1 Q. When, 5:25?

2 A. It was --

3 MR. BONEZZI: Look to see when you
4 ordered it.

5 Q. Tell me what page you're looking at.

6 A. I don't think I wrote on the chart. I
7 brought the bottle from the operating room and I
8 didn't use it, I just plugged it in case --

9 Q. You brought what bottle, Doctor?

10 A. Neo-Synephrine drip.

11 Q. You brought it from the operating room?
12 It was just lying around there so you brought it in?

13 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

14 Q. What did you do with it?

15 A. Put it into IV, but it wasn't used.

16 Q. You put it into the IV, but it wasn't
17 used?

18 A. Right.

19 Q. So he didn't get any Neo-Synephrine drip?

20 A. I didn't -- not being used.

21 Q. It says discontinued.

22 A. Discontinued means to take it out.

23 Q. That implies to me at one time it was
24 being used, but you're saying that's incorrect. It
25 was plugged in but not being used?

1 A. Not used.

2 Q. How do you use it if it's plugged in as
3 opposed to not using it? Is there a little button
4 or switch or something?

5 A. Yeah. There was a clamp.

6 Q. You're saying the clamp was not on?

7 A. Not on.

8 Q. Doctor, if I look at page 155 under the
9 IV infusing on the right or on the left-hand
10 portion, 155, right over here, Doctor, what's that
11 say? And I'm pointing to a portion right by the IV
12 infusion. What's that say?

13 A. "IV infusion, 5D lactate ringer." That
14 means 5 Dextrose plus lactate and ringer. "600 cc
15 and was given" --

16 Q. "In the left arm"?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. What's the next thing say, "NS plus"?

19 A. Normal serum.

20 Q. "Plus 10"?

21 A. Plus --

22 MR. BONEZZI: Can you make that out?

23 A. Yeah. "Normal serum plus 10 milligram of
24 Neo-Synephrine."

25 Q. You just "told me it wasn't given.

1 A. I don't remember. I didn't give --

2 Q. So it was given?

3 A. By this record, yeah.

4 Q. Yeah. And if you keep going, it's got it
5 again, doesn't it, "BNS," that's normal saline, "plus
6 Neo-Synephrine 150," right?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Were they supposed to give it, Doctor?
9 Did they turn that little knob when they weren't
10 supposed to turn it or weren't they supposed to or
11 what? I don't understand.

12 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

13 MS. BARTNIK: Objection.

14 MR. BONEZZI: Do you understand the
15 question?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What's the answer?

18 A. For the controlling blood pressure, it's
19 supposed to be given.

20 Q. Yeah. So then why did you discontinue it
21 if that's what its purpose was?

22 A. Because blood pressure becomes stable.

23 Q. So by 5:40 it was stable; is that your
24 testimony?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. How about the pulse, was it stable at
2 5:40, 5:45?

3 A. He had tachycardia.

4 Q. Is that normal or abnormal, sir?

5 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

6 A. It's abnormal.

7 Q. That's too fast, isn't it?

8 A. Very fast.

9 Q. What did you do for it?

10 A. Has been fast for long time.

11 Q. That doesn't make it good though, does it?

12 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

13 Q. What did you do for it, Doctor?

14 A. I didn't do much thinking about that.

15 Q. Why not?

16 A. I kept the patient breathe and we'd put
17 with a good amount of oxygen.

18 Q. Through the nasal eastnula?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Did you do arterial blood gas studies to
21 determine how much oxygen he was getting into his
22 blood?

23 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

24 Q. Did you?

25 A. I didn't feel it was necessary.

1 Q. You were wrong, weren't you?

2 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

3 Q. Weren't you, sir?

4 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

5 Q. It was necessary, wasn't it?

6 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

7 Q. Wasn't it, Doctor?

8 A. I didn't think it was necessary because
9 patient breathing condition was the same, shortness
10 of breath, same pattern, same type, same rate of
11 respiration, and I was really concerned about -- I
12 wasn't really concerned about his way of breathing.
13 Heart rate, it has been high in the preoperative
14 stage and --

15 Q. Did you consult a cardiologist, get his
16 opinion?

17 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

18 Q. Did you, sir?

19 A. At that point I didn't.

20 Q. Was there a cardiologist available on
21 call to be consulted?

22 A. I could --

23 Q. My question is was there a cardiologist
24 available on call to be consulted?

25 A. I didn't check.

1 Q. Do you know whether there was one?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. There was?

4 A. Yeah, there was.

5 Q. Who was?

6 A. No, I didn't check for that.

7 Q. You just know there would have been one
8 if you wanted a consult?

9 A. Right.

10 Q. Are there cardiologists available in the
11 intensive care unit?

12 A. I didn't check either.

13 Q. How was his respiration, 32? Was that
14 okay?

15 A. 32 was fast.

16 Q. You told me, Doctor, I think just a
17 little bit ago, the nurse or whoever it was that
18 was on at 5:25, you told her not to worry about the
19 A fibrillating and uncontrolled ventricular STE on
20 page 155, do you see them?

21 A. PVC?

22 Q. No. Let's start with A fib. That's
23 atrial fibrillation, right?

24 A. Right.

25 Q. And uncontrolled ventricular, what's that

1 next word, STE?

2 A. Uncontrolled ventricular rate.

3 Q. That's rate?

4 A. Rate. That means high ventricular rate.

5 Q. And "Frequent multifocal PVCs noted,
6 Doctor S. J. Lee aware." At that point you told
7 her not to concern herself, right? You were aware
8 of it and that it was just fine because you'd seen
9 it all through the operation, right?

10 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

11 Q. Is that right? Is that what your
12 testimony is, sir?

13 A. Yeah, I told her this has been the rate.

14 Q. And then at 5:45, 20 minutes later, and
15 five minutes after you discontinued the
16 Neo-Synephrine drip, at 5:45, you're paged. It
17 says "Anesthesia paged"?

18 A. Um-hmm.

19 Q. "Frequent PVCs, multifocal and coupling
20 noted on monitor, no readout." That means she
21 didn't get there quick enough to push it, no readout?

22 A. Um-hmm.

23 Q. That's the same nurse, isn't it, Doctor,
24 that you told not to worry about it at 5:25, right?
25 The shift change hadn't occurred yet, that's

1 Williams?

2 A. Yes, same nurse,

3 Q. Why did she call you at 5:45? What was
4 there different at 5:45 than existed at 5:25 for
5 her to page you?

6 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

7 MS. BARTNIK: Objection.

8 MS. DANN: Objection.

9 Q. What is there, Doctor, different? Is it
10 the coupling?

11 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

12 A. There was disappearance of PVC for a
13 while and it appeared again.

14 Q. But told her not to worry about it at
15 5:25. My question to you is what is there
16 additional that occurred at 5:45 that caused her to
17 worry enough to call you back? Is it the coupling
18 aspect of that note that caused her to call you
19 back, sir?

20 A. Yeah.

21 MS. BARTNIK: Objection.

22 MR. BONEZZI: Which one do you want
23 him to answer first?

24 Q. I had hoped it was the same, but let's
25 make sure it is. Is it the coupling aspect that's

1 noted in the 5:45 entry that's not noted in the
2 5:25 entry that caused her to call you back?

3 MS. BARTNIK: Objection.

4 MS. DANN: Objection.

5 Q. Is that what it is, Dr. Lee?

6 MR. BONEZZI: If you know, Doctor.

7 A. It can be a sign of possible ventricular
8 fibrillation, but I treated --

9 Q. Wait. First just answer my question. Is
10 that the difference that caused her to call you was
11 the coupling?

12 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

13 MS. BARTNIK: Objection.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And coupling is serious because of what
16 you just said, it can be a sign of a worsening
17 condition, can't it?

18 MR. BONEZZI: Objection. Go ahead
19 and answer.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you apparently showed up five minutes
22 later at 5:50 because then you got readout monitor
23 in place, "Dr. S. J. Lee in," right? Correct, sir?
24 Am I reading that right?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Did you order the readout monitor so you
2 would be able to see the strip?

3 A. The nurse did that.

4 Q. She did that on her own?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. So that there was a different monitor she
7 put on so she could show you the strip next time, I
8 take it?

9 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

10 A. Um-hmm.

11 Q. Now, you ordered apparently Lidocaine to
12 be given, correct?

13 A. Right.

14 Q. And the reason for that was what, sir?

15 A. To treat ventricular contraction.

16 Q. Why didn't you order that earlier? You
17 were aware of that when he came into the recovery
18 room. What is there now at 5:55 that causes you to
19 order Lidocaine?

20 A. I thought this coupling is more worse
21 than the PVC.

22 Q. You believed the coupling was occurring,
23 didn't you?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Did you call a cardiology consult at that

1 time, sir?

2 A. No, I didn't.

3 Q. Did you order him to go to the intensive
4 care unit at that time, sir?

5 A. No, I didn't.

6 Q. Have you had specialized cardiology
7 training?

8 A. No.

9 Q. And the Lidocaine, what does it do for
10 the multifocal PVCs with coupling? What does the
11 Lidocaine do?

12 A. Lidocaine decrease -- also it may give
13 treatment for the PVC. We give it for the total --
14 complete treatment of the PVC, but at that time it
15 didn't work, I found out.

16 Q. What was it that was causing the PVCs at
17 this time, sir, do you know?

18 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

19 A. I explained that to nurse. Wearing off
20 from the spinal anesthesia. It was sympathetic
21 nerve a stimulation will be found -- spinal
22 anesthesia was one of the sympathetic nervous
23 activity and by wearing off the anesthesia, the
24 nerve ending of sympathetic nerves increased
25 excretion. That may be the course of PVC.

1 Q. Was his blood pressure still stable at
2 6:15?

3 A. Became a little higher.

4 Q. Higher. So you started the
5 Neo-Synephrine drip again?

6 A. No. It prevent low blood pressure.

7 Q. Makes it go higher?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. I see. So what caused it to go higher
10 now since the Neo-Synephrine drip had been taken
11 off?

12 A. Recovering from anesthesia.

13 Q. That makes the blood pressure go higher
3.4 too?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. He was still tachycardia?

17 A. Heart rate remained the same.

18 Q. The monitor at this time showed atrial
19 fibrillation and ectopics?

20 A. Um-hmm.

21 Q. All right. The patient was confused,
22 correct? Am I reading that correctly, sir?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. What are ectopics?

25 A. Ectopic beat the same as the PVC.

1 Q. Nothing to be concerned with at that time,
2 the same as it has been, right?

3 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

4 Q. Right, sir?

5 MR. BONEZZI: Do you understand the
6 question?

7 A. Yeah. The same.

8 Q. Nothing to be concerned with, right?

9 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

10 A. I concerned.

11 Q. You were concerned?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Did you get more concerned at 6:45?
14 That's the next time you were in to see him,
15 correct? You were there at 5 -- well, at 5:50,
16 then you were in an hour later at 6:45. Actually
17 55 minutes.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Did you get more concerned at that time
20 or was a projectile emesis of large amount of tan
21 fluid a normal occurrence after wearing off of
22 spinal anesthesia?

23 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

24 A. I didn't clear out what the cause of it.

25 Q. Why didn't you? Did you order any

1 additional tests? Did you get a consult from a
2 gastroenterologist or endocrinologist or
3 cardiologist or anybody?

4 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

5 Q. Take them all one at a time if you want.
6 Did you get a consult from anybody? Did you,
7 Doctor, yes or no, sir?

8 A. His --

9 MR. BONEZZI: Doctor, the question
10 is did you get a consult?

11 A. No, I didn't.

12 Q. And is Nurse Sims right when she says "No
13 treatment given for any of the above-mentioned
14 conditions"? You didn't give any treatment at that
15 time; is that right?

16 A. I didn't give any treatment on this point.

17 Q. All right. What's trigeminal rhythm?

18 A. PVC every third beat.

19 Q. What's the significance of that?

20 A. Displaying PVC. Regularly appearing the --
21 regularly every three beats. Once every -- one PVC
22 every three beats.

23 Q. Why is that important?

24 A. There was very sort of --

25 Q. Why is it important? It's once every

1 three beats?

2 A. It's more than usual. Every three beats
3 is one -- in one minute, it can be about 20 times.

4 Q. So why is that important it's happening
5 once every three beats as opposed to once every ten
6 beats or four beats or six beats?

7 A. I don't know.

8 Q. She paged you at 7:00, 15 minutes after
9 you had been there the last time, and told you that
10 there were "Coupling PVCs and trigeminal rhythm
11 noted." Do you remember that?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. What did you tell her? Did you tell her
14 that "Pattern okay"? She's got that in quotes
15 there.

16 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

17 Q. Do you remember that?

18 A. Now I recollect I was with nurse the few
19 times and then it returned to -- then it returned
20 to 10 PVCs a minute and then it disappeared.

21 Q. You remember that now as you sit here?

22 A. Yes.

23 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

24 Q. Before coming here today you don't
25 remember that or did you?

1 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

2 Q. When did you remember that?

3 MR. BONEZZI: When you asked him a
4 question.

5 Q. When did you remember that as opposed to
6 when Mr. Bonezzi remembers you remembering it?

7 A. From the beginning, from the recovery.

8 Q. Okay. When is the next time you came in
9 to see --

10 A. Did he ask me?

11 MR. BONEZZI: Would you read the
12 question back?

13 Q. (BY MR. KAMPINSKI) When is the next time
14 you saw Mr. Smith?

15 A. In the recovery room?

16 Q. Anyplace. Anywhere. I assume that's
17 where he stayed. I apologize, Doctor, yes, in the
18 recovery room.

19 A. I checked by myself time to time, but I
20 do not remember.

21 Q. According to the chart, Doctor, which Mr.
22 Bonezzi wants you to look at to make sure your
23 recollection was accurate, the last time that we
24 see you seeing the patient, according to the chart,
25 is 7:00, and my question after that was when the

1 next time is that you saw him in the recovery room
2 after 7:00, according to the chart.

3 A. I was there the second floor, I checked
4 the patient time to time, but not recorded here.

5 Q. The next time that shows is 9:50, isn't
6 that correct, Doctor?

7 MS. DANN: Objection.

8 A. No. Before that --

9 Q. As far as the chart goes.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. I think the next time --

12 A. What is written by nurse here.

13 Q. But as far as the chart, as far as what
14 she did write, 9:50 is the next time you were there?

15 A. Um-hmm.

16 Q. By the way, were you informed of his
17 blood pressure at 9 p.m., 176 over 97?

18 A. I think I was notified, yes.

19 Q. Was that the only treatment that he was
20 getting through the IV? Is that the only form of
21 treatment Mr. Smith was receiving?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And I take it the most important thing
24 that he was getting -- he was getting the lactate
25 ringers for the electrolyte balance, correct?

1 A. Right.

2 Q. He was getting Lidocaine for his heart?

3 A. Right.

4 Q. Was he getting anything else through the
5 IV that was assisting him?

6 A. Until the 9:50?

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. I don't think he got anything.

9 Q. Was it important for him to be getting
10 his IV, the medication through the IV?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. And for example, if he didn't get it for
13 45 minutes or an hour, could that be harmful to him
14 in the condition that he was in?

15 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

16 MS. DANN: Objection.

17 A. Not getting IVs, I cannot say is harmful,
18 but the patient needed strict restoration of fluid.

19 Q. That's why he gets it IV and not by mouth,
20 right?

21 A. Not by mouth.

22 Q. That's why you put it through the IV?

23 A. Right.

24 Q. But I assume that he's being given it
25 through the IV or if he could take it by mouth or

1 if he could take it some other way because he needs
2 the medication, that's why you're giving it to him?

3 a. Right,

4 Q. My question to you, sir, is it harmful if
5 he's not getting the medication that you ordered
6 for him?

7 A. Right.

8 Q. And if he weren't getting it for let's
9 say a half hour or 45 minutes, would that be
10 harmful?

11 MS. BARTNIK: Objection.

12 MS. DANN: Objection.

13 A. It may be harmful, yeah.

14 Q. Would you want to know in a patient such
15 as this who has got irregular heartbeats,
16 tachycardia, he's short of breath, he's showing
17 different patterns on the strips, he's just been
18 through surgery, and you yourself said you were not
19 aware of all the facts, which you weren't aware of,
20 would probably have not considered him a good
21 candidate for surgery --

22 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

23 Q. Should you have been notified if this IV
24 was taken out of this man right away?

25 A. No.

1 Q. No? Should you have been notified that this IV was taken out of this man?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Right away?

5 A. Right.

6 Q. Were you?

7 A. Yeah. When they called, the IV was -- I

8 was notified.

9 Q. When were you notified?

10 A. I have to find it in the chart.

11 Q. 9:15. Page 142. No. Page 166.

12 MS. BARTNIK: I don't think you mean

13 166.

14 MR. BONEZZI: 159.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Well, it says -- the note starts with

17 9:15, "Lung sounds clear. Patient coughing

18 productively. White mucous, no expiratory wheeze

19 at this time. Dr. Lee notified of infiltration of

20 IV." Do you recall where you were, if you were

21 notified, Doctor? Where were you that night?

22 MR. BONEZZI: Do you remember where

23 you were before you were notified?

24 A. I don't remember. I stayed there on

25 surgical floor for some time.

1 Q. Is that the same floor as the recovery
2 room?

3 A. Same floor.

4 Q. Were you in another surgery?

5 A. Yeah, there was another surgery.

6 Q. Was it a complicated one, one that
a required your --

8 A. It was a long surgery.

9 Q. Long one. Did you have any help or did
10 Joan Allen leave -- Joan Allen leave?

11 A. Nurse anesthetist that was to work case --

12 Q. Is that what you were trying to tell me
13 before when you said it would have been better to
14 have more help around?

15 A. In some way, yes.

16 Q. Because it took you, according to the
17 chart here, 35 minutes after you were informed of
18 the infiltration of the IV until you actually got
19 there to try to restart it, and would the reason
20 for that be that there just weren't enough people
21 around to help this nurse infiltrate it since you
22 were in another surgery? Do you understand my
23 question?

24 A. Yeah. This is already -- 9:50, other
25 than this patient, I may -- can be taken out, but

1 this patient had some problems --

2 Q. By the time you got there at 9:50, there
3 was an elevation of pulse was noted. He had an
4 expiratory wheeze and he was complaining that he
5 couldn't breathe; isn't that right, Doctor?

6 A. I recollect at this time I thought the
7 patient is about to be ready to be discharged from
8 the recovery room.

9 Q. At 9:50?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. When he complained of not being able to
12 breathe, he was diaphoretic?

13 A. I checked time to time and there was no
14 PVC, present breathing was all right.

15 Q. That's in this chart, Doctor?

16 MR. BONEZZI: Doctor, please listen
17 to his question and answer only the question that
18 is asked of you.

19 Q. (BY MR. KAMPINSKI) Doctor, at 9:00 the
20 monitor shows atrial tachycardia and occasional
21 PVCs. Trigeminy run noted on monitor. You're
22 saying that he's fine, he's ready to go out of the
23 recovery room at that point?

24 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

25 Q. Is that your testimony, sir?

f A. Okay.

2 MR. BONEZZI: Did you hear what his
3 question was?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. You can't just say things, Doctor, that
6 are not supported by the record. You understand
7 that, sir, don't you? You can if you want to, but
8 I want you to understand the record is saying
9 something different than what you're saying.

10 Is it your testimony at 9:00 he was ready
11 to be taken out of the recovery room and go back to
12 his regular room; is that your testimony?

13 A. Objection.

14 Q. There was no problem?

15 MR. BONEZZI: Answer his question.
16 Listen to his question.

17 Q. Did he have problems at 9:00?

18 MR. BONEZZI: He wants to know as of
19 9:00 was he ready to be discharged, based upon
20 what's in that record?

21 A. By this record, no, definitely not.

22 Q. How about at 9:50 when you finally came
23 in to see him after being notified at 9:15 that the
24 IV was out?

25 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

1 Q. How about then, was he ready to be
2 discharged at 9:50?

3 A. No.

4 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

5 Q. He was in trouble, wasn't he, Doctor?

6 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

7 Q. Wasn't he, sir?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Did you call in a consult then?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Why not?

12 A. I thought I could treat.

13 Q. Did you transfer him to intensive care?

14 A. At that point I decided later.

15 Q. Did you transfer him at 9:50 to intensive
16 care? Yes or no, Doctor?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Was he ever transferred to intensive care?

19 A. No, never.

20 Q. Did you call Dr. Smith and talk to him
23 about transferring him to intensive care or getting
22 a consult?

23 A. I called surgical -- I left --

24 MR. BONEZZI: Did you call Dr. Smith?

25 A. No.

1 Q. You let the nurse call who?

2 A. Call the surgical resident, orthopedic
3 resident.

4 Q. You let her call. Did you tell her to
5 call or did she want to call because she didn't
6 think the patient was being treated correctly?

7 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

8 MS. BARTNIK: Objection.

9 MS. DANN: Objection.

10 A. I remember I let the nurse call
11 orthopedic surgeon.

12 Q. I don't understand what you mean when you
13 say you let her call. Did you tell her to call or
14 did you allow her to call? What do you mean you
15 let her call?

16 A. I told her to call.

17 Q. Why did you tell her to call the surgical
18 resident?

19 A. We have to move patient to intensive care
20 unit.

21 Q. That would have been apparently Dr.
22 Miller here?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. That wasn't until 10:30, according to
25 this record, correct?

1 A. According to this record, I think so,
2 yeah.

3 Q. All right. And what did he say?
4 According to the record, she called him at 10:30,
5 he was paged, then you notified Dr. Miller of the
6 patient's condition at 10:37. All right. Then Dr.
7 Smith's answering service was notified to contact
8 recovery room at 10:43. All right. When you
9 talked to Dr. Miller or when the nurse talked to
10 Dr. Miller, what decision was made about
11 transferring the patient?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. What decision was made?

14 A. Transfer the patient.

15 Q. To transfer him?

16 A. No. I didn't transfer him.

17 Q. Did you and Dr. Miller make the decision
18 to transfer him at that time?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Why wasn't he transferred?

21 A. What I thought at that time, he's in
22 cardiac failure and pulmonary edema. That's all I
23 thought.

24 Q. Well, thinking that, wasn't it even more
25 important to have him transferred somewhere where

1 he could be dealt with adequately as opposed to the
2 recovery room?

3 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

4 A. Should I put all the time before the
5 transferring -- I should have given immediate
6 treatment for the operation and for the heart rate
7 and for the blood pressure first.

8 Q. Are the facilities better in the
9 intensive care unit for taking care of someone in
10 respiratory distress and having atrial
11 fibrillations, multifocal PVCs, than in the
12 recovery room?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I take it it was your decision to leave
15 him in the recovery room from 5:25 until 10:30 when
16 you talked to Dr. Miller recommending that he be
17 moved. Would that be a fair statement, Doctor,
18 that it was your decision during that period of
19 time?

20 A. I talked to the Doc Smith and myself.
21 Neither had objection about putting him into
22 recovery room.

23 Q. I understand. But between 5:25 and 10:30,
24 was it your decision to keep Mr. Smith in the
25 recovery room or did you confer with anybody else

1 during that period of time?

2 A. No, I didn't.

3 Q. Okay. So it was your decision then,
4 correct?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Did you speak to Dr. Stephens when he
7 called or did the nurse speak to him?

8 A. I think the nurse.

9 Q. Okay. You didn't talk to him?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did you talk to Dr. Miller? I think you
12 said you did.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Do you recall what your conversation was
15 with Dr. Miller?

16 A. Patient had to be moved to SICU.

17 Q. Did you tell him why?

18 A. Probably development of cardiac failure.

19 Q. Did he tell you to call Dr. Stephens or
20 did he say, Hey, I'll be right there, or what
21 happened?

22 A. I cannot recollect, but he responded --
23 he agreed to what my suggestion. I don't remember
24 what was said.

25 Q. You see, because I think you called him

2 at 10:30, and if you told him that the patient was
3 in cardiac failure, I guess I need to ask you why
4 it is he didn't come up until 11:15, if you know?

5 MS. BARTNIK: Objection.

6 Q. Was he in a surgery or doing something
7 else, do you know? Was he covering the emergency
8 room, do you know?

9 A. Dr. Miller -- I don't remember.

10 Q. Patient was intubated at 11:00 by you.
11 Do you remember that, Doctor?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And there was a moderate amount of tan
14 fluid suction. Where did it come from?

15 A. From stomach.

16 Q. From the stomach. What's the purpose of
17 intubating a patient and where did he put the tube?

18 A. Decided to put the patient on ventilation
19 in the surgical intensive care unit.

20 Q. He wasn't in the surgical intensive care
21 unit.

22 MR. BONEZZI: Listen to his question.

23 Q. I'm asking about the 11:00 entry where
24 you have "Patient intubated by Dr. Lee, mouth and
25 tube suctioned for moderate amount of tan fluid."
Where did you put the tube, Doctor, that you got

1 tan fluid out of the stomach?

2 A. Put the tube into the trachea.

3 Q. Trachea. And the fluid came from the
4 stomach?

5 A. Yeah. Came from stomach.

6 Q. Could it have come from the lungs?

7 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

8 A. I did suction some from the --

9 Q. From the tube, so that means it came from
10 the lungs?

11 A. Multi fluid from stomach. I intubated.

12 Q. Did Mr. Smith, in your opinion, have
13 gastrointestinal bleed?

14 A. I couldn't find any blood when he vomited
15 in the operating room. The color was all right.

16 Q. Had stomach contents aspirated into the
17 patient's lungs when you intubated Mr. Smith?

18 A. I had about 10 cc. He regurgitated some
19 into the lung. It was a very minimum amount.

20 Q. Who did you talk to after Mr. Smith died?
21 Did you talk to Dr. Smith and Dr. Stephens?

22 A. I don't think I called anybody.

23 Q. Was Dr. Stephens there? Did he show up?

24 A. Dr. Stephens was -- yeah. Doc Stephens
25 was there.

1 Q. Did you talk to him about what happened?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did he ask you why this patient wasn't

4 transferred to intensive care?

5 A. No. We didn't discuss it at that point.

6 Q. What did you discuss?

7 A. I explained I was about to transfer this

8 patient to surgery intensive care unit, and these

9 things happen.

B0 Q. Did you talk to the family at all?

If A. I didn't talk to the family.

12 Q. Did you get involved into the decision as

13 to whether or not to do an autopsy?

14 A. No, I didn't involve.

15 Q. Isn't it required to do an autopsy if

16 somebody dies within a day of surgery?

17 A. I assume the surgical --

18 Q. You assumed they'd take care of that

19 because that's what's done, isn't it?

20 A. I found it was not done.

23 Q. Why not?

22 A. I don't know.

23 Q. Did you ever talk to Dr. Smith or

24 Stephens or Miller or Gill or anybody as to why no

25 autopsy was done here?

1 A. No, I didn't discuss about that.

2 Q. What do you think the -- in your opinion,
3 the infusing IV had to do with Mr. Smith's death,
4 if anything?

5 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

6 MS. DANN: Objection.

7 MR. BONEZZI: You may answer.

8 A. Medication infused through the IV?

9 Q. Sure.

10 A. I don't think I did anything wrong with --

11 Q. That will be up to somebody else to
12 decide. My question is what do you think the lack
13 of medication through the IV -- and I'm not saying
14 that it was your fault or somebody else's fault,
15 somebody else will decide that -- but just the fact
16 of his not having an IV for that period of time,
17 what effect do you think that had with respect to
18 the ultimate death?

19 MS. DANN: Objection.

20 A. The IV?

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. Lack of an IV?

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. That's less fluid.

25 Q. Do you think that had an affect on his

1 dying?

2 A. No, I don't think so.

3 MS. DANN: Objection.

4 Q. Do you think the fact that the hemoglobin
5 had dropped in this patient over a three-day period
6 of time from approximately 15 to 10 had any affect
7 on his ultimately dying?

8 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

9 A. No, I don't think so.

10 Q. Do you think the monitoring or lack thereof
11 in the recovery room had any affect on this
12 patient's dying?

13 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

14 MS. DANN: Objection.

15 MS. BARTNIK: Objection.

16 Q. Do you think he should have been
17 monitored more in the recovery room?

18 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

19 MS. DANN: Objection.

20 A. I felt at that time not necessary any
21 further monitoring him, unnecessary. The patient
22 had a spinal anesthesia.

23 Q. Yeah.

24 A. And we're waiting for the wearing off for
25 the patient from anesthesia.

1 Q. Um-hmm.

2 A. The surgery was simple.

3 Q. Was what, simple?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. It wasn't very simple for Mr. Smith, was
6 it?

7 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

8 MR. GROEDEL: Objection.

9 MS. DANN: Objection.

10 A. I cannot tell --

11 Q. He died.

12 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

13 Q. How simple is that, Doctor?

14 MR. BONEZZI: Objection. You don't
15 have to answer that.

16 Q. (BY MR. KAMPINSKI) I think my question
17 was whether or not you believed additional
18 monitoring was necessary in the recovery room.
19 That was my question. Now, if you'd answer that,
20 I'd appreciate it.

21 MS. DANN: Objection.

22 MR. BONEZZI: Mr. Kampinski, he
23 started to answer that question.

24 MR. KAMPINSKI: I don't think he did.

25 MR. BONEZZI: Yes, he did.

1 MS. BARTNIK: I believe he did. I
2 object to that.

3 MR. KAMPINSKI: You can object to
4 what you want.

5 Q. (BY MR. KAMPINSKI) If you'll answer it,
6 I'd appreciate it.

7 A. There was spinal anesthesia, the surgery
8 was done, and patient had the same type pattern
9 over breathing and the preop, pattern of the
10 breathing. And when the -- the patient in the
11 process of wearing off the anesthesia, I felt at
12 that time that patient would be normal condition
13 wherever exactly as the preop status.

14 Q. Doctor, did you give due consideration to
15 the history of this patient before surgery in
16 retrospect sitting here now, having had a better
17 chance to look at the records, realizing you had
18 even taken the wrong readings off the wrong day's
19 chart, did you give due consideration to this
20 patient's history and the things that were
21 happening to him between November 14th and November
22 17th and allowing him to go to surgery at all?

23 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

24 Q. Did you?

25 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

4 A. Retrospective?

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. Retrospective, I wouldn't let him go to
4 surgery.

5 MR. KAMPINSKI: Why don't we take a
6 five minute break.

7 (Short recess was taken.)

8 MR. KAMPINSKI: I have one more.

9 Q. (BY MR. KAMPINSKI) Doctor, how long does
10 it usually take for an anesthetic such as you gave
11 Mr. Smith to wear off?

12 A. About four hours.

13 Q. Four hours. So -- I'm sorry?

14 A. About four hours.

15 Q. So there was nothing unusual in the
16 length of time that it took for this anesthesia to
17 wear off, was there?

18 A. This person, it was unusual, yeah.

19 Q. Why?

20 A. Retrospectively, I assume this, I don't
21 know, because of poor circulation.

22 Q. What because of poor circulation? That
23 it took so long?

24 A. Absorption and distribution and excretion
25 is slow, that's why -- absorption and excretion of

1 anesthetic agent becomes slow.

2 Q. In other words --

3 A. Because of poor circulation.

4 Q. So in other words, when he wasn't out and
5 they started the procedure --

6 A. It wasn't out.

7 Q. He wasn't numb in the operating room and
8 they started the procedure, which is what you were
9 telling me about earlier, you're saying that was
10 because of his blood loss and reduced capacity of
11 oxygen in his blood or what?

12 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

13 A. Effects of pain in the -- there was slow
14 onset of anesthetic -- slow onset. I don't know
15 what the cause of it.

16 Q. I guess I asked you earlier about it
17 wearing off.

18 A. In the recovery room?

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. Yeah, it started wearing off.

21 MR. BONEZZI: His question was
22 whether the length of time while he was in the
23 recovery room wearing off from the agent is unusual.

24 A. In the recovery room?

25 Q. Right.

1 A. After surgery?

2 Q. Right.

3 A. I would say including the surgical time,
4 supposed to be about three hours in the recovery
5 room.

6 Q. So did it take longer than you would have
7 expected it for it to wear off?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And the reason for that is what, because
10 of his underlying condition?

11 MR. BONEZZI: Objection.

12 A. Retrospectively, I assume that because of
13 poor circulation.

14 Q. Poor circulation where?

15 A. Due to the heart condition.

16 Q. And the reason, I take it that you told
17 me before that you would not have recommended
18 surgery for this man is because of the severity of
19 his heart condition that you were just not aware of
20 and the increased loss of blood?

21 MR. GROEDEL: Objection.

22 Q. Would that be fair?

23 MR. GROEDEL: Objection.

24 A. Not only because of the loss of blood,
25 but retrospectively, assume we don't know in the --

E Q. Gastrointestinal bleed, for example?

2 A. No, not because of that.

3 Q. Because of what? What do you think it
4 was, Doctor?

5 A. The heart.

6 Q. What problem?

7 A. Possibly myocardial infarction.

8 Q. And would additional EKGs have revealed
9 that?

10 A. But I couldn't find a specific finding of
11 myocardial infarction in the EKG. He showed
12 ventricular rate, which he has been having already
13 fluid in the beginning of surgery and recovery,
14 throughout the recovery of time.

55 Q. We've been through this before a couple
16 of times and I don't want to beat a dead horse too
17 much more. Just a little bit more.

18 If a person has a bleed, all right, and
19 if in fact they're losing blood, that makes the
20 heart work harder, doesn't it?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. If the heart is already weakened, cannot
23 that cause a myocardial infarction, Doctor?

24 A. Yeah, that can be a cause.

25 Q. And if you throw in an insult of a

1 surgery, however minor that might be to somebody
2 who is used to seeing surgery such as yourself,
3 couldn't that add additional insult on the heart in
4 terms of having to work harder?

5 A. By looking at the chart, hemoglobin is 10
6 or 11 in the morning of surgery, I don't think it --
a it didn't cause heart attack or anything.

8 Q. You don't know that. At the time you
9 thought it was 13 or 14.

10 A. Retrospectively.

E1 Q. But additional blood tests could have
12 determined that, couldn't they, if you knew that?
13 If you knew what the level was?

14 A. What was the last one?

15 Q. I think it was 10 something, 10-3 maybe?
16 But it had been dropping every day since surgery,
17 not just the one day postop, but every single day.
18 In fact, his family doctor had ordered additional
19 blood tests to be done and to have it monitored
20 more closely on the day that he underwent surgery.
21 Did you know that?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. You know it now. You didn't know it then?

24 A. Right.

Q. Would that be consistent with his dying,

1 Doctor?

2 A. No, I don't think so.

3 Q. No. Have you gone through this chart to
4 see what the results of the KUB were?

5 MR. BONEZZI: When was that taken?

6 MR. KAMPINSKI: Taken November 17th,
7 I believe.

8 MR. BONEZZI: I couldn't find it in
9 the chart.

10 MR. KAMPINSKI: I'm looking for it
11 too. That's what I want him to find is the reading
12 of that KUB. Mike gave us a copy of it at the last
13 deposition.

14 MS. BARTNIK: The film itself?

15 MR. KAMPINSKI: Yeah. She bring the
16 films with her?

17 MS. BARTNIK: I didn't see them out
18 there. Do you want me to look?

19 MR. KAMPINSKI: Yeah. That will
20 give us the dates.

21 MS. BARTNIK: No, we don't have the
22 films.

23 MR. KAMPINSKI: The 17th. 10 a.m.

24 MR. BONEZZI: Did you find one?

25 THE WITNESS: No.

1 Q. (BY MR. KAMPINSKI) You didn't ever read
2 that yourself, did you?

3 A. No.

4 MR. KAMPINSKI: That's all I have.
5 Some of the other attorneys may have some questions
6 of you, Doctor.

7 MS. BARTNIK: I have no questions.

8 MS. DANN: No questions.

9 MR. GROEDEL: Doctor, I have one
10 question for you.

11 CROSS-EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. GROEDEL:

13 Q. While the patient was in the recovery
14 room from 5:25 until the code was called, did you
15 yourself have any conversations with either Dr.
16 Smith or Dr. Stephens about Mr. Smith?

17 A. No, not directly. Dr. Stephens appeared --
18 Dr. Stephens appeared in the recovery room.

19 Q. That was at about 11:00?

20 a, At the time that written in the chart,

21 Q. At the time of what?

22 A. Recorded in the chart.

23 MR. GROEDEL: Thank you, Doctor.

24 THE WITNESS: It was --

25 MR. BONEZZI: That's all.

1 MR. KAMPINSKI: You have the right
2 to read your testimony. You have a right to waive
3 your signature. Your attorney can advise you, of
4 course.

5 MR. BONEZZI: My advice to you,
6 Doctor, is to read the testimony. Indicate to the
7 court reporter you'd like to read the testimony.
8 You have to tell her.

9 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

10 (Concluded at 5:11 p.m.)

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1 I have read the foregoing transcript from page
2 1 to page 131 and note the following corrections:
3

4 PAGE: LINE: CORRECTION: REASON:
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16 _____
17 SONG JOON LEE, MD,

18 Subscribed and sworn to before me this
19 day of , 1986.
20

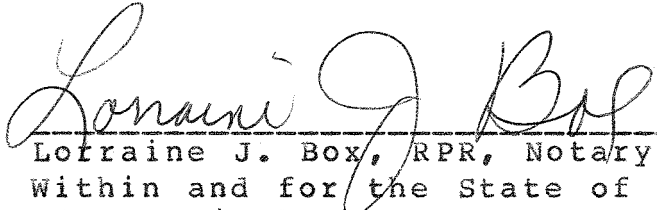
21 _____
22 Notary Public

23 My Commission Expires:
24
25

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

4 I, Lorraine J. Box, a Notary Public within and
5 for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and
6 qualified, do hereby certify that SONG JOON LEE,
7 MD, was by me, before the giving of his deposition,
8 first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
9 truth, and nothing but the truth; that the
10 deposition as above set forth was reduced to
11 writing by me by means of Stenotypy and was
12 subsequently transcribed into typewriting by means
13 of computer aided transcription under my direction;
14 that said deposition was taken at the time and
15 place aforesaid by agreement of counsel; that the
16 reading and signing of the deposition by the
17 witness were expressly waived; and that I am not a
18 relative or attorney of either party or otherwise
19 interested in the event of this action.

20 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and
21 seal of office at Cleveland, Ohio, this 3rd day of
22 October, 1986.

23 
24 Lorraine J. Box, RPR, Notary Public
25 Within and for the State of Ohio
540 Terminal Tower
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
My Commission Expires: June 20, 1987.