

1                   IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

2                   CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO

3           TRAVIS CATES, et al.,

4                   Plaintiffs,

5           - vs -

JUDGE J. McMANAMON  
CASE NO. 167835

6           CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN  
7           GENERAL HOSPITAL, et al.,

8                   Defendants.

Doc. 297

9                   - - - -

10           Deposition of MARY-BLAIR MATEJCZYK, M.D.,  
11           taken as if upon cross-examination before Aneta  
12           I. Fine, a Registered Professional Reporter and  
13           Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio,  
14           at the MetroHealth System, 3395 Scranton Road,  
15           Cleveland, Ohio, at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday,  
16           October 3, 1989, pursuant to notice and/or  
17           stipulations of counsel, on behalf of the  
18           Plaintiffs in this cause.

19                   - - - -

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APPEARANCES:

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On behalf of the Plaintiffs;

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On behalf of the Defendant,  
Mary-Blair Matejczyk, M.D.;

Michael C. Zellers, Esq.  
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1100 Huntington Building  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115  
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On behalf of the Defendant,  
MetroHealth System.

1                   MARY-BLAIR MATEJCZYK, M.D., of lawful  
2                   age, called by the Plaintiffs for the purpose of  
3                   cross-examination, as provided by the Rules of  
4                   Civil Procedure, being by me first duly sworn,  
5                   as hereinafter certified, deposed and said as  
6                   follows:

7                   CROSS-EXAMINATION OF MARY-BLAIR MATEJCZYK,  
8                   M.D.

9                   BY MR. KAMPINSKI:

10          Q.    Doctor, would you state your full name, please?

11          A.    Mary-Blair Matejczyk.

12          Q.    And why don't you spell your last name.

13          A.    M A T E J C Z Y K.

14          Q.    Where do you live, Doctor?

15          A.    At 15433 Brewster, B R E W S T E R, Road, East  
16                Cleveland, 44112.

17          Q.    I'm going to ask you a number of questions this  
18                afternoon. If you don't understand any of them,  
19                please tell me. I will be happy to rephrase any  
20                question you don't understand.. When you respond  
21                to my questions you have to do so verbally. She  
22                can't take down a nod of your head, all right?

23          A.    All right.

24          Q.    Your CV's coming so I will wait till it gets  
25                here to ask you background information, okay? I

1 will back up to do that when it gets here.

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. Briefly, though, Doctor, we're here at Metro,  
4 and what is your affiliation with Metro  
5 Hospital?

6 A. I'm employed here as a staff physician in the  
7 orthopedics department.

8 Q. All right. So you are actually paid by Metro?

9 A. I receive part of my salary from Metro.

10 Q. And is that for purposes of training residents?

11 A. Partly it is.

12 Q. And what would the other part be, to take care  
13 of staff patients?

14 A. That's part of the salary, too. There's no  
15 specific breakdown or apportionment.

16 Q. I see. You are also a member of University  
17 Orthopedics, correct?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. You are an employee?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. As well as a shareholder?

22 A. I personally am not a shareholder.

23 Q. All right. You said that as though someone you  
24 are related to is?

25 A. Most of the people in the group are.

1 Q. Okay. You are just an employee?

2 A. I have equal status with everyone but I happen  
3 personally to have chosen not to own stock in  
4 the corporation.

5 Q. I see. When you see a patient, do you bill them  
6 through University Orthopedic Associates or does  
7 Metro bill them or how does that work?

8 A. Any patient that I see as a private patient is  
9 billed through the University Orthopedic group.

10 Q. I see. And anyone who would walk in the door  
11 who you'd see as a staff patient would be billed  
12 through Metro?

13 A. That's correct, with no particular billing  
14 coming from me or my services.

15 Q. All right, And then somehow you would then  
16 charge back to the hospital for your services?

17 A. No, we really don't do that for staff patients.

18 Q. You are on a salary then?

19 A. We don't get any specific reimbursement for  
20 staff patients.

21 Q. All right. Are you then on a salary from Metro?

22 A. Yes, I do receive a salary from Metro.

23 Q. And that's you personally as opposed to  
24 University Orthopedics?

25 It's somewhat complex.

1 Q. Okay. Why don't you explain it to me?

2 A. But I could get a check from Cleveland  
3 Metropolitan General Hospital.

4 Q. Does University Orthopedics also receive  
5 compensation for the work you do for staff  
6 patients?

7 A. I don't believe so,

8 Q. All right, Do you know if there is a contract  
9 between University Orthopedics and Metro?

10 A. I don't know specifically if there is.

11 Q. Was Travis Cates a patient that was a staff  
12 patient or was he someone you billed through  
13 University Orthopedics?

14 A. No, he was billed through University Orthopedics  
15 as a private patient of mine,

16 Q. Okay. How long had he been a patient of yours,  
17 Doctor?

18 A. Several years.

19 Q. All right, Doctor. I think I have gotten your  
20 office records. I think. I am not sure. Do  
21 you have your office records?

22 MR. SEIBEL: They're back in the  
23 Doctor's office.

24 Q. Why don't you get them so we can refer to them?

25 A. Should I get them now?

1 Q. Please.

2 - - - -

3 (Thereupon, a discussion was had off  
4 the record.)

5 - - - -

6 Q. Doctor, is that your entire office chart on  
7 Mr. Cates?

8 A. Yes, **it** is.

9 Q. All right.

10 MR. KAMPINSKI: Why don't you mark  
11 that.

12 - - - -

13 (Thereupon, Plaintiff's Exhibit  
14 1 was mark'd for purposes of identification.)

15 - - - -

16 Q. Doctor, we'll come back to your record in a  
17 minute, but I have just been given your CV.  
18 Where did you go to -- okay. Did you go  
19 straight to medical school after college?

20 A. Yes, I did.

21 Q. What did you do before college, Doctor?

22 A. I went to high school.

23 Q. All right. Straight from high school to  
24 college?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. And how old are you?

2 A. 40.

3 Q. Doctor, at one point I requested your records.  
4 Are you aware of that?

5 A. Was it quite some time ago?

6 Q. Yes. And what I received, Doctor, was one, two,  
7 three, four, five, six, seven, eight pieces of  
8 paper.

9 MR. SEIBEL: I think for the record  
10 at this point we ought to note that  
11 Mr. Kampinski requested the Doctor's record in  
12 connection with an action for discovery which is  
13 no longer active. And I don't think,  
14 Mr. Kampinski, that you made a request for the  
15 Doctor's chart in this case, yet.

16 MR. KAMPINSKI: Mr. Seibel, I sent  
17 the Doctor a letter before there was any case  
18 filed including discovery asking for all of  
19 Mr. Cates' records, so I don't understand what  
20 you're saying.

21 MR. SEIBEL: You want it read  
22 back?

23 MR. KAMPINSKI: I guess I'd like  
24 an answer to my question.

25 Q. Do you know why I was only sent eight pieces of



1 paper when I asked for Mr. Cates' record and  
2 sent up an authorization signed by Mr. Cates  
3 asking for his chart?

4 MR. SEIBEL: Only if you know,  
5 Doctor.

6 A. I really at this point don't have any  
7 recollection of correspondence or letters.

8 Q. Doctor, when a patient is seen by you for a  
9 visit how do you chart what occurs in that  
10 visit?

11 A. Generally I dictate an office note either at the  
12 time of the visit or later that day and it is  
13 subsequently transcribed and filed.

14 Q. Could you, and I'm going to -- well, this  
15 portion of your record which apparently consists  
16 of those transcriptions, right? These few  
17 sheets of paper there?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Is that what you're talking about?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. Could you tell me where the transcription is for  
22 the visit of December 30, 1987?

23 A. I don't believe that there's a transcription.

24 Q. Why not?

25 A. At this time I really don't know. Occasionally

1        the secretaries don't transcribe, papers get  
2        misfiled.

3        Q.    Was anything removed from this chart before my  
4           coming here today?

5        A.    I don't believe, I just found this chart  
6           actually and hadn't looked at it for at least  
7           since the lawsuit was filed.

8        Q.    My question was was anything removed from it,  
9           Doctor?

10       A.    Nothing was removed,

11       9.    When you say you just found it since the lawsuit  
12           was filed, where was it?

13       A.    When a lawsuit is filed **my** practice is to take  
14           the original chart and file it in the bottom of  
15           a filing cabinet which contains some other  
16           debris, and remove it from the regular chart,  
17           and I just hadn't remembered where it was.

18       Q.    On the front of your chart there's a new patient  
19           registration, and just below that I guess there  
20           is an information sheet, and the date is August  
21           31 of '81. Would that be when Mr. Cates first  
22           came to you?

23       A.    I believe so, yes.

24       Q.    Okay. And --

25       A.    This is an updated copy of this, same form.

- 1 Q. Okay. So this one's saying August 31 of '81 is  
2 when he would first come to you?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. As a patient. And you had just begun working on  
5 the staff at University -- at Metro August of  
6 1981?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. So he was one of your first patients?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. How is it that he was -- that you saw him as  
11 opposed to anybody else at University  
12 Orthopedics or on the staff at Cleveland Metro?
- 13 A. He was referred to me by a rheumatologist here  
14 on the staff.
- 15 Q. Who was that?
- 16 A. Dr. Stan Ballou, B A L L O U.
- 17 Q. And the reason he was referred was what?
- 18 A. He had an abscess involving his arm.
- 19 Q. And you first saw him then when, September of  
20 1981? You can look at your original and I will  
21 try to follow along on these copies.
- 22 A. There's a note before that probably because that  
23 says -- I really don't see an original note  
24 here.
- 25 Q. Are these your original records that are in this

1 file, Doctor, or are these copies?

2 A. These appear to be original records.

3 Q. Okay. All right. So there would have been --

4 A. These --

5 Q. I'm sorry?

6 A. I think this might have been yours.

7 Q. No. I don't think so. I think that's your  
8 original, Doctor.

9 A. This is a letter so the original would have been  
10 sent.

11 Q. Okay,

12 A. Okay.

13 Q. Are you saying that there is or that there are  
14 parts of your record missing?

15 A. Are you referring specifically to 1981?

16 Q. Yes. I mean you seem to indicate in response to  
17 my question that you thought that there were or  
18 that there was a previous visit that wasn't  
19 reflected here?

20 A. It appears that way because the registration  
21 sheet is dated August 31.

22 Q. All right. So where would that be?

23 A. I don't see a note from that date unless that  
24 was possibly as a hospital consult instead of an  
25 outpatient visit.

- 1 Q. What did you treat Mr. Cates for through, let's  
2 say, middle of 1987? Was there any one problem  
3 that you were seeing him for?
- 4 A. Could you be more specific about that?
- 5 Q. Well, he's got rheumatoid arthritis, right?
- 6 A. That's right,
- 7 Q. And I mean were you treating him for any problem  
8 related to that?
- 9 A. His rheumatoid arthritis was being managed by  
10 his rheumatologist, Dr. Ballou,
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 A. And I would see him episodically really in  
13 conjunction with Dr. Ballou when Dr. Ballou felt  
14 there was a problem that I could help with.
- 15 Q. Is Dr. Ballou on the staff here also?
- 16 A. Yes, he is.
- 17 Q. There's a reference in the medical record to a  
18 Dr. Ballou who is a resident. Is that the same  
19 Dr. Ballou or is there a different Dr. Ballou?
- 20 A. There's only one Dr. Ballou that I know and he's  
21 also been a staff rheumatologist.
- 22 Q. He is not a resident?
- 23 A. Since I have known him.
- 24 Q. He is not a resident?
- 25 A. He is not a resident.

- 1 Q. During the hospitalization of November of 1987  
2 were you involved in the care of Mr. Cates?
- 3 A. Yes, I was.
- 4 Q. And how were you involved?
- 5 A. Specifically?
- 6 Q. Specifically.
- 7 A. Do you have a specific question?
- 8 Q. Yes. What did you do?
- 9 A. He was my patient.
- 10 Q. Oh. And what was he in for?
- 11 A. He was **in** for a breakdown in the area of his old  
12 total knee replacement incision.
- 13 Q. Who did the total knee replacement?
- 14 A. I did.
- 15 Q. When did you do it?
- 16 A. I need to look to tell you the exact date.
- 17 Q. Sure.
- 18 A. That was done April 25.
- 19 Q. Of?
- 20 A. 1984.
- 21 Q. Had he had problems with -- was it both knees or  
22 the right or which?
- 23 A. No. He only had a right total knee replacement.
- 24 Q. When you say a breakdown of it, what do you mean  
25 by a breakdown?

1 A. Well, when we did the total knee we do it  
2 through the anterior approach and he had a scar  
3 on the front of his knee.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. And then several years later he developed a  
6 local problem with that scar,

7 Q. What kind of problem?

8 A. There was apparently a scab or something that  
9 formed over the front of it that the  
10 rheumatologists were looking at and it seemed to  
11 come and go, and then one day, I believe it was  
12 in November, when he was admitted he presented  
13 acutely with swelling and warmth and redness and  
14 drainage from that local area.

15 Q. Okay. We're talking now about the admission of  
16 November 13, 1987?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. All right. There's no office record of yours  
19 pertaining to that admission, Is there a reason  
20 for that?

21 A. As I was reviewing these notes I see a message  
22 from Dr. Wilbur who was one of my partners  
23 probably on call that day.

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. That he had been admitted, so it would not have

1           been -- I didn't see him in an office visit that  
2           day.

3       Q.   Okay. As a matter of fact, the last note you  
4           have got -- well, the only note you have got in  
5           '87 is of July 6, correct?

6       A.   That's correct.

7       Q.   Why was he admitted and what was done for him in  
8           November of 1987, Doctor?

9       A.   He was admitted with an acute problem with his  
10           knee. I believe that he came to see the  
11           rheumatologist on that day, was sent down  
12           immediately to orthopedic clinic where I wasn't,  
13           I am not sure where I was that particular day.

14      Q.   Okay.

15      A.   And admitted to the hospital. I received a call  
16           from my partner, Dr. Wilbur, and that day went  
17           up and saw him and evaluated the situation.

18      Q.   And what was the situation?

19      A.   Well, the initial impression was that his  
20           prosthesis was infected, however, what I  
21           determined when I evaluated him that night was  
22           that the problem appeared to be entirely  
23           superficial.

24      Q.   Superficial?

25      A.   As opposed to involving the knee joint.



- 1 Q. And I assume you charted that somewhere?  
2 A. I don't believe that I specifically did.  
3 Q. You're doing this then by recollection?  
4 A. Yes.  
5 Q. If it would have involved the entire joint would  
6 you have removed the prosthesis?  
7 A. Yes. If we had obtained pus on aspirating the  
8 joint, on the day of admission, which we didn't,  
9 Q. When you say we, you are talking about you,  
10 aren't you?  
11 A. Me or whoever aspirated the joint.  
12 Q. Well, who did?  
13 A. I really don't recall.  
14 Q. Well, take a look at the chart enough to --  
15 A. I don't really remember that it says who  
16 specifically aspirated it.  
17 Q. Does it say what --  
18 A. It probably was the resident in orthopedics  
19 clinic or it could have been rheumatology,  
20 Q. Who was that?  
21 A. Here, I do have it. That was one of our  
22 orthopedic residents, Dr. Meyer.  
23 Q. And what are you looking at, Doctor, progress  
24 notes?  
25 A. No. I'm looking at the admission, history and

1 physical on November 13.

2 Q. All right. But you say that evening -- well,  
3 all right. Are you referring to what was  
4 aspirated on the admission?

5 A. That's correct,

6 Q. Okay. Why don't you read that for me?

7 A. Right knee aspirate under sterile conditions,  
8 gram stain, no organisms, few WBC, WBC 11, 89  
9 percent polys, 1 percent B's.

10 Q. And that was Dr. Meyer?

11 A. That was Dr. Meyer.

12 Q. Why don't you continue, What was his assessment  
13 and plan?

14 A. As he wrote it, Infected right total knee  
15 arthroplasty, which is not correct and not  
16 specific. Has been admitted, will obtain  
17 x-rays. Follow CBC and ESR. ID consult.  
18 Cardiology consult. Antibiotics, I believe, he  
19 means per ID consult.

20 Q. Well, where does it indicate that there was no  
21 pus when he aspirated it?

22 A. His little side note down to the left indicates  
23 that the cell count was 216 which is very, very  
24 low, certainly not pus.

25 Q. Pus is something you see, isn't it?

1 A. You see and there are certain laboratory  
2 characteristics as well.

3 Q. So this is a comment on the laboratory value?

4 A. This 216, yes.

5 Q. So does that tell me that there was no pus when  
6 he aspirated it?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. Doctor, if you would turn to the progress notes,  
9 please,. of November 13 and 14. You have got a  
10 yellow mark through them also, don't you? Do  
11 you see the infectious disease note down there?

12 A. Yes, I do.

13 Q. And who was the infectious disease person?

14 A. I really can't say with certainty whose  
15 signature that is.

16 Q. Well, you were the attending physician, weren't  
17 you?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. And are you the one to call for the consult?

20 A. Personally?

21 Q. Or someone on your behalf?

22 A. The orthopedic service did. I personally didn't  
23 call the infectious disease consult.

24 Q. Well, you were in charge of the orthopedic  
25 service as related to this man, weren't you?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. So he would have been called on your behalf  
3 then?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. Who was he?

6 A. I believe this is an infectious disease fellow  
7 who sees, generally they see all the patients  
8 and write the notes. I can give you two  
9 possibilities but I can't identify that  
10 signature with certainty.

11 Q. Who were the possibilities?

12 A. The first possibility is a woman, Dr. Roberta  
13 Bender, and the other one is Blinkhorn so you  
14 can see where the signatures might be a little  
15 bit difficult to decipher.

16 Q. Did you read this note?

17 A. When?

18 Q. At the time it was written?

19 A. I don't recall that.

20 Q. Have you read it since then?

21 A. Yes, I have.

22 Q. Can you read it for me, please?

23 A. You want me to read the entire note?

24 Q. Yes.

25 MR. SEIBEE: Go ahead.

- 1 A. Okay. Asked to see this 53-year-old -- shall I  
2 read the abbreviations or translate?
- 3 Q. You can translate it.
- 4 A. White male with long standing RA.
- 5 Q. What is that?
- 6 A. Rheumatoid arthritis. Sorry. Who presented to  
7 the, this could be ortho or could be arthritis  
8 clinic, with complaint of superficial ulceration  
9 over the right knee times two weeks. No  
10 definite history of probable trauma. Has been  
11 doing or caring for this wound with dressing  
12 changes only. It's difficult to read this  
13 writing, no antibiotics taken. No healing noted  
14 something this time period. And on the a.m. of  
15 admission noticed increased right knee  
16 swelling. Called rheumatology M.D., and I'm  
17 sure that's Dr. Ballou but it doesn't look like  
18 it in the writing, who suggested ortho clinic  
19 appointment. Right knee found to have  
20 appreciable effusion.
- 21 Q. What does that mean?
- 22 A. An effusion is fluid accumulation within the  
23 joint.
- 24 Q. Go ahead.
- 25 A. Superficial right knee ulcer with something

1 purely on drainage.

2 Q. How about obvious purulent drainage?

3 A, Yes.

4 Q. What is purulent drainage, pus?

5 A. Purulent drainage means pus.

6 Q. I just thought you told me there was no pus?

7 A. I was making the distinction between inside the  
8 joint cavity versus superficial to the joint  
9 cavity.

10 Q. Well, how do organisms present themselves? How  
11 do you determine whether there is an organism  
12 inside the joint cavity as opposed to  
13 superficially outside of the joint cavity?

14 A. You insert a needle into the joint cavity which  
15 is the aspiration that's referred to, you  
16 examine that fluid with a gram stain, you might  
17 do some laboratory analysis such as a cell  
18 count, and finally you culture that fluid.

19 Q. Was that done?

20 A. Yes, it was.

21 Q. Why don't you turn to the lab values if you  
22 would, Doctor? Can you tell me which ones were  
23 taken of the knee joint and which ones were  
24 taken of the surface? Can you determine that?

25 A. I haven't examined this particular copy of the

1 records so I am not sure but I will try.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. These pages aren't numbered. Do we know that  
4 they're in the same order?

5 Q. I'm sorry?

6 A. My pages of the lab results aren't numbered so  
7 they may not coincide with yours.

8 Q. You can just tell me which one you are looking  
9 at and I will find it.

10 A. Okay. I'm looking at a report dated 11-13.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Time, 1309, joint --

13 Q. Give me some reference up here so that I can  
14 follow along with you.

15 MR. SEIBEL: Looks like it's page  
16 2. Inpatient Cumulative Summary Report.

17 A. It's confusing the way these are filed because  
18 preliminary reports go in and then it had  
19 replacement --

20 Q. Okay. This is labeled Permanent Patient Record,  
21 right?

22 MR. SEIBEL: I am not sure we're on  
23 the right page, Chuck.

24 MR. KAMPINSKI: I think we are.

25 November 13, '87, time, 1747, right?

1 MR. SEIBEL: Mine looks different  
2 than yours. Turn the next page.

3 MR. KAMPINSKI: Oh, I'm sorry,  
4 that's page one, You're right. Page two, all  
5 right.

6 Q Okay. Go ahead.

7 A On the 11-13, time, 1309, specimen, joint knee  
8 there's a result for glucose and a result for  
9 total protein. And that has to be from fluid as  
10 opposed to a swab.

11 Q All right. Now, would that correlate, Doctor,  
12 to -- is there a number of that particular  
13 specimen that we can see what was grown as **far**  
14 as a culture?

15 A I don't think that would be the same number.  
16 Are you referring to some identification  
17 numbers?

18 Q Now, is 1309 the time, is that the time it was  
19 taken or the time that it was examined or  
20 which? Do you know?

21 A I believe that's the time that it was examined  
22 in the lab or clocked into the lab because some  
23 tests aren't available immediately as they're  
24 checked into the lab. But this lab, body  
25 fluids, pathology, would be a different lab than



1 the lab that would process the specimen for  
2 microbiology.

3 Q. I see. So that in terms of the organisms, we're  
4 looking at the wrong page here, right?

5 A. We were just starting to look at the chemistries  
6 or the fluid analysis of that aspirate specimen.

7 Q. Does that help you in terms of knowing what the  
8 organism is that's infecting the knee?

9 A. Well, if you just, if you just finish this  
10 little section,

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. The white count of that knee joint fluid is  
13 listed as 216 which is extremely low and totally  
14 inconsistent with an infectious process within  
15 the joint,

16 Q. I see.

17 A. And the culture as we'll see later that were  
18 taken from the superficial draining area, you  
19 wouldn't be able to get a cell count on it  
20 because it wouldn't be a volume of fluid.

21 Q. I am not sure I understood what you just said.

22 A. If you take a culture of a wound by a swab --

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. -- and then all you get is the tiny drop of the  
25 material on the swab --

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. -- as opposed to taking fluid out of the inside  
3 of the knee and then you have a syringe and a  
4 certain volume of fluid that you can work with,  
5 and then you would divide it up and say well,  
6 what do we need to get on this specimen.

7 Q. And the distinction you are making is what?

8 A. The exact location of where the specimen came  
9 from.

10 Q. I see.

11 A. Whether it came from the superficial hole in the  
12 skin which can be contaminated with skin  
13 organisms versus whether it was a deep  
14 aspiration obtained by a sterile technique.

15 Q. All right. So what you're saying is that this  
16 particular page and this particular test is, in  
17 fact, the aspirate that was taken out of the  
18 knee and it shows very few white blood cells?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. Okay. Why don't you take me through this  
21 particular test which apparently indicated to  
22 you that it was not into the knee joint. I mean  
23 is this the only one?

24 A. No. I think that the subsequent documentation  
25 is, two things, one is the gram stain on that

1 fluid which I believe was noted by infectious  
2 disease who customarily does the gram stain  
3 themselves without going through the lab, and  
4 then also the subsequent culture of that fluid.

5 Q. All right, Why don't you find those for me?

6 A. So we need to find these, May I point out  
7 something else?

8 Q. Sure.

9 A. Here is the distinction we were talking about.  
10 This is just the chronologic log of specimens  
11 received, and this one is labeled right knee  
12 aspirate.

13 Q. I need to know what we're dealing with here in  
14 terms of page so I appreciate that we're not on  
15 the same numbering sequence here but give me a  
16 moment so I can find that.

17 A. Okay.

18 MR. SEIBEL: I think that's it,  
19 Chuck.

20 MR. KAMPINSKI: Yes.

21 Q. This is, let's see, page one of what. December  
22 1st, '87 is the date, and the time is 1726 in  
23 the left-hand corner?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. Go ahead.

1 A. I was pointing out the distinction between the  
2 two knee specimens here and the labeling. One  
3 is body site, knee aspirate, the other one body  
4 site, right knee which is a more general kind of  
5 term. Specimen received in the first case was  
6 syringe, in the second case was a swab.

7 Q. Okay. The numbers over to the left right next  
8 to the time, would those be the numbers of the  
9 specimens then? Do you know?

10 A. I believe that they would but I don't -- I never  
11 really paid much attention to those before.

12 Q. All right. Well, if we --

13 A. But we can keep track of them anyway.

14 Q. All right. Go ahead.

15 A. I found something else. I'll stop you here  
16 while it's on top. We were talking about the  
17 gram stain.

18 Q. All right.

19 A. And the report of that is few white cells seen,  
20 no organisms seen. So again, that mitigates  
21 against an infection deep within the knee.

22 Q. And that was also from what date, November 13?

23 A. November 13.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. You can see it's confusing when they continue.

1 Q. Okay. And that also has a five digit number,  
2 11197 by it if we go back and maybe this is the  
3 same thing. No. I'm looking now at page two of  
4 the document that's November 18, 1987 with a  
5 time of 1719, okay. I find a reference to that  
6 particular number, that is, 11197 that you were  
7 just showing me. Do you see that?

8 A. Let me catch up with you.

9 MR. ZELLERS: Number 18?

10 MR. KAMPINSKI: Yes, That's the  
11 date on the page.

12 A. I haven't found it yet.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. This one is November 17. It's the same  
15 information but it's not exactly the same page.  
16 November 18, 1719.

17 Q. All right.

18 A. Okay. What was the question?

19 Q. I'm just trying to get a handle on these numbers  
20 to see if, in fact, these numbers correlate to a  
21 particular slide or a particular test, all  
22 right. It's got the 11197 which you had just  
23 referred to a moment ago, All right. Correct?

24 A. That's correct. We're talking about the same  
25 test.

1 Q. All right. And it's just reported on a  
2 different lab slip read out on a given day?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. All right. So I assume from looking at this  
5 that a lot of different cultures were done of  
6 his right knee, correct, not just on one day but  
7 on a number of days?

8 A. No. That's really not correct because the way  
9 that this lab reporting system works, it looks  
10 like many, many cultures were done, but --

11 Q. Were they all done the first day?

12 A. Well, I think the ones that were done the first  
13 day, and I would really need to sort out the  
14 numbers like you're doing, were the swab of the  
15 wound, and the aspiration. And I believe that  
16 there were some done subsequently during the  
17 treatment,

18 Q. The swabs showed heavy growth of staphylococcus  
19 aureus, did it not?

20 A. I believe if you go back to that same page, the  
21 one where it says right knee drainage, which is  
22 really just someone else filling out the slip  
23 and using different language, shows heavy growth  
24 staph aureus.

25 Q. What does that mean, right knee drainage?

1 A. That is the swab specimen as it's indicated a  
2 little further down.

3 Q. Okay. How was he treated for the staph?

4 A. I think I haven't really completely answered  
5 your question about the results from the  
6 aspirate.

7 Q. Okay. Go ahead.

8 A. If you can find the lab sheet dated November 20,  
9 '87 time, 1720.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Toward the end.

12 Q. I have got it.

13 A. This is the final report on the knee aspirate  
14 from the syringe just to confirm that we're  
15 looking at the same specimen.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Finally, no growth five days, and then just  
18 below that is the gram stain of that aspirate  
19 with few white cells, no organisms seen.

20 Q. So after five days there was no growth in the  
21 aspirate that they took out of the knee joint?

22 A. That's correct,

23 Q. Okay. What is a mannitol plate? Is that just  
24 something they put a specimen on?

25 A. I believe that's just another culture medium

1           that they would plate a specimen on.

2   Q.   And what are flares?   What are flares?

3   A.   Flares refers to the nose.

4   Q.   To the what?

5   A.   Nose.

6   Q.   Nose.   Why would you take a culture *of* the nose?

7   A.   As is indicated in the infectious disease note,  
8           they are checking this person, Mr. Cates, to see  
9           whether he is a chronic staph carrier, that is,  
10          there's certain people in the population that  
11          have these organisms present in and around their  
12          body at all times,

13   Q.   And by checking the nose they could tell that?

14   A.   That's correct, that's one *of* the characteristic  
15          locations.

16   Q.   Well, if you have a staph infection in one part  
17          of your body, can it be in another part of your  
18          body?   Is that how these infections work?

19   A.   I really don't understand your question.   I'm  
20          sorry.

21   Q.   Well, if someone develops a staph infection in  
22          their knee can there be staph cells in other  
23          portions *of* their body such as their nose or  
24          ear?

25   A.   Yes, there can be.



1 Q. All right.

2 A. Most people actually do have staph on their  
3 skin. If you cultured your own hand right now  
4 you would probably grow it.

5 Q. Is that what happened when they cultured the  
6 nose, they got heavy growth staph aureus from  
7 the flares?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Is that just normal?

10 A. It's not a normal condition but it is a  
11 condition that's found in the population and it  
12 means that those people generally are more  
13 susceptible to serious staph infections as  
14 opposed to just carrying it around on your skin  
15 and having it cause you no problems.

16 Q. You found some in the right ear', too?

17 A. Yes. He had had a chronic infection of his  
18 right ear.

19 Q. Is a foreign body a good medium for staph to  
20 seed in?

21 A. I am not sure I understand your question. Body  
22 is not the medium that it grows in,

23 Q. Foreign body. I asked if it was a good medium  
24 for an infection such as staph to seed in?

25 A. You wouldn't say that medium is the correct

1 word, but yes, it's a location that staph could  
2 seed in.

3 Q. And recur?

4 A. Yes, it could recur.

5 Q. What is your background in infectious disease?

6 A. I am not an expert in infectious disease but I'm  
7 familiar with treating orthopedic infections.

8 Q. Okay. And I assume one of the things you are  
9 concerned with when you have somebody that has  
10 an infection that also has a prosthesis is that  
11 the organism would, in fact, seed in the foreign  
12 body, the prosthesis?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. What is the appropriate length of time that an  
15 individual with a staph infection should receive  
16 antibiotics for?

17 A. I don't think that there's really a specific  
18 answer to that. It would depend on the location  
19 of the infection, the seriousness of the  
20 infection, the clinical manifestations. As we  
21 said, staph can be present as a contaminant  
22 virtually anywhere and certainly it can be  
23 deleterious to treat those types of infections.

24 Q. How long did Mr. Cates receive antibiotics for?

25 A. I believe that he received Vancomycin for a

1 total time of 14 days.

2 Q. And who was the person that stopped the  
3 treatment of antibiotics for Mr. Cates? Was  
4 that you?

5 A. No, Generally that's done on the recommendation  
6 of the infectious disease consulting service.

7 Q. How was it done here?

8 A. It was done by the infectious disease consulting  
9 service.

10 Q. Who?

11 MR. SEIBEL: Go ahead, look at the  
12 chart, Doctor.

13 A. I am not sure exactly. I see a notation in the  
14 order sheet dated 11-27.

15 Q. By whom?

16 A. By the -- whoever this B person is from the ID  
17 service indicating that vancomycin, 500 I.V. Q6  
18 approved through 11-29-87.

19 Q. Does that mean you stop it then or --

20 A. That's how I would interpret that, yes.

21 Q. You were the attending physician. Whose orders  
22 was it that stopped it? Was it yours or was it  
23 the infectious disease fellow?

24 A. The way that we work in conjunction with the  
25 infectious disease service is to communicate

1 with them but let them really call all the shots  
2 for specific choice of antibiotic and duration.

3 Q. Okay. So that was their decision then?

4 A, That's correct, but based on clinical findings  
5 that we would note as well, namely that the  
6 wound was healing.

7 Q. What kind of staph aureus was this? Was it in  
8 the methicillin resistant MRSA?

9 A. That's correct,

10 Q. What does that mean, Doctor?

11 A. That means that it is a particular brand of the  
12 staph organism that is not killed by the drugs  
13 that would kill the routine garden variety  
14 staph.

15 Q. So does that make it more difficult to treat?

16 A. Yes, it does.

17 Q. Is it your opinion, Doctor, that a two week  
18 course of I.V. antibiotics is an appropriate  
19 treatment for methicillin resistant staph  
20 aureus? Is that your opinion?

21 MR. SEIBEL: I will object to the  
22 Doctor rendering opinions that may be outside  
23 her area of expertise but if you can go ahead  
24 and answer, Doctor.

25 A. If you would ask if that were my opinion in this

1 specific case in dealing with a superficial  
2 wound problem that was healing well, yes, I  
3 would say that would be perfectly adequate. But  
4 this was not done with the idea that we were  
5 converting him from a staph carrier to a  
6 nonstaph carrier. That's an impossible  
7 condition to treat.

8 Q. Would you believe that he was, was a staph  
9 carrier?

10 A. I think there's ample evidence in this chart and  
11 previously that he is,

12 Q. How do you then try to prevent a recurrence of  
13 this happening specifically with it becoming  
14 worse in terms of its manifestations?

15 A. There's no easy answer to that. I don't think  
16 that there's a specific or that there was a  
17 specific drug regimen at that time that would  
18 prevent a recurrence of an infection in this  
19 gentleman, especially given that he had had this  
20 chronic infection problem with his ear, various  
21 other problems with ulcers on his feet, et  
22 cetera, so I think that the best answer is  
23 careful monitoring of them and having him come  
24 back at the first sign of anything that's new or  
25 different for him.

1 Q. What evidence is there that he had staph  
2 infections of his ear previously, Doctor?

3 A. He had the -- do you have the previous volumes  
4 of his hospital. record?

5 MR. KAMPINSKI: Do you have that?

6 MR. SEIBEL: We only brought from  
7 November '87 on.

8 Q. Have you reviewed them?

9 A. Yes, I have.

10 Q. And when did he have a previous staph infection?

11 A. I believe he had those sorts of infection going  
12 back as far as probably '82. Now, he also had  
13 the abscess in the arm that I treated him for in  
14 '81.

15 Q. Did that grow staph?

16 A. I believe it did. I don't remember the specific  
17 microbiology details.

18 Q. Okay. Any time after the '84 one did it show  
19 evidence of staph infection?

20 A. To be really sure I would have to review those  
21 records again.

22 Q. Which records?

23 A. But I believe so. The records from his prior  
24 hospital records before this date.

25 Q. Well, there was the '84 hospitalization when you

1 did the total knee, right?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. What other hospitalizations were there?

4 A. I believe that this hospitalization is volume  
5 four and prior to that there are obviously three  
6 previous volumes with various admissions.

7 Q. My question is which hospitalization did he have  
8 between this one in '84 and '87? Did he have  
9 any?

10 A. I don't recall.

11 Q. When you say chronic staph carrier, that to me  
12 as a layman means he's got it all the time?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Is that what you meant to say?

15 A. He has the organism present and obtainable by  
16 culture but not causing any clinical infections  
17 all the time.

18 Q. By suturing the wound on the 14th day -- you did  
19 that by the way, did you not?

20 A. I believe one of the residents did that.

21 Q. At your direction?

22 A. Yes, that's correct.

23 Q. And what was the reason you did that, Doctor?

24 A. We wanted to get rid of that one little local  
25 source that was right over the knee prosthesis

1 and get that skin to heal up and close.

2 Q. Is that the standard of care for an infected  
3 prosthetic knee?

4 A. This patient did not have an infected prosthetic  
5 knee.

6 Q. Does the record -- did your residents diagnose  
7 it as an infected prosthetic knee?

8 A. That is what is written in the initial  
9 impression by Dr. Meyers, junior resident.  
10 That's not the correct diagnosis.

11 Q. If it were an infected prosthetic knee would it  
12 have been appropriate to suture the wound?

13 A. As I said, this wasn't an infected prosthetic  
14 knee, and the answer is no, it wouldn't have  
15 been treated this way at all. If it were an  
16 infected prosthetic knee it would have been  
17 opened and drained immediately as soon as it was  
18 diagnosed.

19 Q. Was Mr. Cates discharged on any regimen of  
20 antibiotics?

21 A. I don't believe he was.

22 Q. Whose decision was that?

23 A. I believe that that was infectious disease in  
24 conjunction with our service.

25 Q. When did you next see him?



1 MR. SEIBEL: After when?

2 Q. He was discharged. He was discharged December  
3 2, right?

4 A. I don't see a date on the discharge order but I  
5 think it was December 2,

6 Q. When did you next see him?

7 A. As I recall, I saw him probably twice before I  
8 brought him back for formal excision of that  
9 area and surgery and I don't really recall the  
10 specific dates.

11 Q. That was on -- well, when you did the surgery  
12 was December 22, is that correct?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. And what was the reason for doing surgery,  
15 Doctor?

16 A. He continued to have breakdown in this area.

17 Q. And what does that mean, breakdown?

18 A. It means that along his old incision line there  
19 was a small area that just wouldn't heal back  
20 together again, and as we subsequently  
21 determined the reason, was fairly unusual, the  
22 pathology report from the excised specimen  
23 showed the presence of a rheumatoid nodule  
24 within that scar tissue. And again, I would  
25 point out that this is superficial external to

1 the prosthetic knee joint.

2 Q. Were there samples sent to the lab again,  
3 Doctor?

4 A. Yes, I believe that there were.

5 Q. And what did they look like?

6 MR. ZELLERS: This is from December  
7 22?

8 MR. ICAMPINSKI: That's right,

9 Q. Did they look pretty good?

10 MR. SEIBEL: It wouldn't be in  
11 here.

12 Q. That's in your office notes I think, Doctor.  
13 Clinic Copy, right? How did they look, pretty  
14 good?

15 A. Let's see. We're looking at 12-22, time, 1555,  
16 date in lab, location with a swab of that, which  
17 had broken down again showed moderate growth,  
18 staph aureus.

19 Q. What is thio confirms?

20 A. Thio.

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. I believe that that's just a different culture  
23 medium that they process the specimen in in  
24 addition to the routine culture medium.

25 Q. By the way, when do you get these results back?

1 Do you get them right away?

2 A. That is pretty variable. The absolute minimum  
3 time that you would get a positive culture  
4 report back is in the range of 24 to 48 hours.  
5 If the lab doesn't find anything right away, it  
6 may not be for 5 or 7 days, and these papers may  
7 get shuffled around to various locations.

8 Generally they go back to the clinic.

9 Q. I assume if you're interested you can just pick  
10 up the phone and call, though?

11 A. Yes, that's correct.

12 Q. Did you do that in this case?

13 A. No, I didn't because at the time of surgery the  
14 wound was clean and healthy looking and there  
15 was no evidence that there was a reason to be  
16 concerned.

17 Q. Well, did the lab results give you a reason to  
18 be concerned, Doctor?

19 A. Well, according to the -- according to my  
20 written note on this sheet.

21 Q. Let's deal with the written results, sir. Did  
22 they give you any reason to be concerned, ma'am?

23 A. I think in conjunction with the clinical  
24 appearance of the wound and the fact that he was  
25 doing well, the wound looked well, no, I wasn't

1 concerned.

2 Q. When I read here, Moderate Growth Staph Aureus  
3 Thio Confirms, how did you treat that?

4 A. That wasn't treated- at all.

5 Q. Why not?

6 A. Because clinically the wound was doing fine and  
7 healing and we know that this man has a chronic  
8 staph carrier state and it's not necessary to  
9 treat every positive culture.

10 Q. Then why did you take the culture?

11 A, Routine, Culture of the specimen that we obtain  
12 from surgery.

13 Q. You have got a written note on there. When did  
14 you write that, Doctor?

15 A. The date, 12-30-87.

16 Q. I asked when you wrote it?

17 A. To the best of my recollection, that's when.

18 Q. And why don't you read it for me.

19 A. It says, translating the abbreviations --

20 Q. Is all the writing on there yours, the circling  
21 up above where it's got your name circled? I  
22 mean did you circle that?

23 A. I don't think that I would have circled my  
24 name. I have a feeling that this report went to  
25 the outpatient clinic.

1 Q. You have a feeling?

2 A. Well, I'm telling you that to the best of my  
3 knowledge the reason that my name is circled is  
4 that it went to the outpatient clinic where  
5 there are many people working, and someone put  
6 my name around it and then sorted it into a mail  
7 pile.

8 Q. Below that's a checkmark. Did you make that  
9 checkmark?

10 A. That's my checkmark.

11 Q. Why did you make a checkmark?

12 A. It's my habit to make a checkmark when I have  
13 noted something and dealt with it.

14 Q. If we look at the other clinic copy for November  
15 13, there's no checkmark or is there?

16 A. In place of that this write-in chart which is my  
17 writing.

18 Q. You have got chart written on the other one?

19 A. It just indicates to my secretary that that goes  
20 into the chart.

21 Q. The checkmark was for what again?

22 A. I believe it's just my indication that I have  
23 dealt with this, sort of an internal note to  
24 myself.

25 Q. All right. How did you deal with it?

1 A. Discuss the situation with ID, if wound, it  
2 looks to me if wound fine, path report,  
3 rheumatoid nodule, exclamation point, wound  
4 check excellent.

5 Q. Why don't you read it from the beginning,  
6 12-30-87. What does that say?

7 A. No RX.

8 Q. What does that mean?

9 A. Treatment. AB, antibiotic,

10 Q. Per ID?

11 A. Per ID if wound fine.

12 Q. Who is the ID?

13 A. I don't know who that person would be, per ID.

14 Q. Well, did you call him or her?

15 A. Oh, this indicates that I called them.

16 Q. Who did you call?

17 A. You know, I don't have a specific recollection,  
18 We work closely with infectious disease on many,  
19 many cases and I have told you the two  
20 possibilities of the names starting with B. So  
21 one or the other of those people.

22 Q. Would it have been the one you called on  
23 December 30, '87?

24 A. It most likely would have been -- it had to be  
25 the same person that was involved with him in

1 the hospital.

2 Q. Okay. So that person told you that there was no  
3 treatment necessary?

4 A. Well, this is sort of a discussion we would have  
5 about a patient, and it says if wound fine, and  
6 apparently at that point I didn't know if the  
7 wound was fine or not,

8 Q. Why didn't you know?

9 A. Because I hadn't seen him back yet.

10 Q. Didn't you see him on December 30?

11 A. I am not really sure. I suppose I must have  
12 because wound check excellent.

13 MR. SEIBEL: 12-30.

14 A. But this could have come in the morning or it  
15 could have come before he came.

16 Q. When did it come?

17 A. You know, I am not sure that I can actually tell  
18 you when it came. The wound -- the translation  
19 of my written notes here is that the decision  
20 was made if the wound is fine, clinically he is  
21 doing well, we'll not recommend any further  
22 antibiotics. Also if you look at the  
23 sensitivity patterns of this organism, there is  
24 no oral antibiotic that you could use anyway.

25 Q. Well, how about an I.V. antibiotic? Did that

1           ever occur to you, Doctor?

2   A.   No.   At this point there was no clinical  
3       indication to do that.

4   Q.   But you don't even remember when you saw him or  
5       what it looked like.   How do you know?

6   A.   I do remember that the wound was doing well.

7   Q.   Was it?

8   A.   Yes.   I guess if it weren't doing well he would  
9       have been admitted immediately.

10   Q.   Either that or you would have been a bozo for  
11       not admitting him, right?

12                   MR. SEIBEL:   I'm sorry, can I have  
13       that read back, please?

14   A.   I am not a bozo, Mr. Kampinski.

15   Q.   Well, how did this man do after his wound looked  
16       fine on December 30, 1987?   Did he do pretty  
17       good?

18   A.   I have no knowledge of how he did until he came  
19       into the hospital on January 3, I believe it  
20       was.

21   Q.   How did he look then?   Did he look pretty good  
22       then?

23   A.   I didn't see him on January 3rd.

24   Q.   Did you see him at all afterwards?

25   A.   Can you ask me specifically?



- 1 Q. When did you see him next, ma'am?
- 2 A. According to the record it's January 5th, '89,  
3 and according to my recollection I was called to  
4 see him in the intensive care unit when he was  
5 very sick.
- 6 Q. Gee, what was wrong with him?
- 7 A. Well, how detailed do you want me to be?
- 8 Q. As detailed as necessary to answer the  
9 question,
- 10 A. He, according to the records and what I was told  
11 and what I recall, presented basically septic  
12 with a history of acute onset of confusion,  
13 disorientation, high fever, provisional  
14 diagnosis of meningitis, I believe.
- 15 Q. And what was the organism?
- 16 A. That was also staph aureus. I am not certain if  
17 it was exactly the same sensitivity pattern as  
18 previous organism,
- 19 Q. You referred a moment ago, Doctor, to the  
20 pathology report, right?
- 21 A. That's correct.
- 22 Q. Indicating that there was a rheumatoid nodule  
23 formation?
- 24 A. That's correct.
- 25 Q. You see under persistent symptoms, physical and

1 x-ray findings up above where it says right knee  
2 wound, rheumatoid, presumably rheumatoid  
3 arthritis, rule out vasculitis?

4 A. That's correct,

5 Q. Is that what you had sent the sample for, to  
6 rule out vasculitis?

7 A. Yes. This typed notation here would have been a  
8 reflection of what would have been written on  
9 the request that went with the pathology  
10 specimen, and in my mind at that time I'm  
11 wondering why this wound was being so indolent.  
12 Chronic vasculitis associated with his  
13 rheumatoid disease was in my mind as a  
14 possibility.

15 Q. No active acute vasculitis was seen, correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. So what was causing the problem,. as far as you  
18 were concerned, Doctor?

19 A. As far as I was concerned this explained the  
20 whole scenario in that he developed a rheumatoid  
21 nodule within the scar from his previous knee  
22 surgery, and the nodule not being of normal skin  
23 tissue didn't heal or broke down, subsequently  
24 became infected with his chronic staph. I'm  
25 sorry,. I lost my train of thought.

1                               -   -   -   -  
2                               (Thereupon, the requested portion of  
3                               the record was read by the Notary.)  
4                               -   -   -   -

5       A.    Okay.  Let me carry on from there.  The staph  
6            had been treated, the nodule had been excised  
7            and I had every expectation that that problem  
8            was healing and doing well.

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

10      A.    No, I really don't think that I was wrong.

11      Q.    Where did the infection that he suffered from on  
12            December -- on January 2, 1988 come from,  
13            Doctor?

14      A.    I have no way of knowing nor does any expert  
15            where this came from.  This could have come from  
16            any number of sources around his body.  He had  
17            some ulcers on his skin elsewhere, there was an  
18            ulcer on his back, I recall seeing when we  
19            had -- when he was readmitted to the hospital,  
20            he had this chronic cartilage infection of his  
21            ear which would intermittently break down and  
22            become infected.  It could have come from the  
23            knee, it could have come from foot ulcers which  
24            he was chronically and intermittently afflicted  
25            with over the years.

1 Q. So you don't know?

2 A. Not with certainty, I don't know.

3 Q. How about with probability?

4 A. I don't know with probability either,

5 Q. What is the reason that you called infectious  
6 disease on December 30, 1987?

7 A. Most likely in response to their lab report.

8 Q. I mean to tell them the results or --

9 A. Well, being somewhat surprised that it's  
10 positive, maybe not surprised, but just to  
11 continue communication with them.

12 Q. I don't understand. I mean was it to convey  
13 Christmas greetings or what do you mean,  
14 continued communications?

15 A. Well, as I explained about how we work with the  
16 infectious disease service --

17 Q. Yes?

18 A. We work very closely with them, we confer back  
19 and forth about what is going on, what our  
20 recommendations might be as far as surgery,  
21 nonsurgery, dressing changes, what we think the  
22 wound is doing.

23 Q. Clinically?

24 A. Clinically.

25 Q. Yes?

1 A. And they, and in an ongoing dialogue, confer  
2 back with us to help make decisions about  
3 antibiotic choices.

4 Q. All right, So that you defer to them in terms  
5 of both the type of antibiotic as well as the  
6 duration, correct?

7 A. Well, I would say we confer with them, but  
8 we -- obviously they have the most up-to-date  
9 state of the art knowledge, and are in a better  
10 position to make the ultimate decision, but it's  
11 done in conjunction, really.

12 Q. Well, if infectious disease would have wanted to  
13 continue antibiotic treatment of Mr. Cates, I  
14 assume you would not have objected to that, you  
15 would have deferred to them in terms of their  
16 wisdom?

17 A. Most likely, yes.

18 Q. And I assume, assuming that you made this phone  
19 call December 30, 1987, if ID, whoever ID is,  
20 would have indicated he needs to be on  
21 antibiotics immediately, you would have complied  
22 with that also?

23 A. I think that's correct. I think we also need to  
24 look at the possible choices of antibiotics. If  
25 it were a simple matter of calling up a drug

1 store and saying get some Keflex and take it for  
2 a few days, that might influence your decision  
3 one way versus does this guy need I.V.  
4 antibiotics if clinically nothing serious is  
5 going on.

6 Q. If Mr. Cates and his families' recollection is  
7 that it didn't look very good clinically they'd  
8 be mistaken, wouldn't they, according to you?

9 A. Could you repeat that, please?

10 - - - -

11 (Thereupon, the requested portion of  
12 the record was read by the Notary.)

13 - - - -

14 A. Well, I think if their assessment was that if it  
15 didn't look good clinically at that point they  
16 would have done something about it, namely  
17 called Dr. Ballou or called me. Generally his  
18 pattern or habit was to get in touch with  
19 Dr. Ballou if anything was different or unusual.

20 Q. Apparently came to see you on December 30?

21 A. For a routine follow-up.

22 Q. Does it say that? I mean where does it reflect  
23 that December 30th, the day before New Year's  
24 years would be a routine follow-up?

25 A. Why not?

- 1 Q. Well, I don't know. Do you have a scheduling  
2 book somewhere that you keep?
- 3 A. I think they're probably around somewhere. I  
4 don't really know right now.
- 5 Q. Who would have them?
- 6 A. Who would have it?
- 7 Q. Yes.
- 8 A. Generally my secretary would have it but we have  
9 just moved from the sixth floor down here so I  
10 imagine it's in a box somewhere,
- 11 Q. Who is your secretary?
- 12 A. Ruth Tibbs.
- 13 Q. Was she also your secretary in December of 1987?
- 14 A. Yes, she was, unless she was on vacation.
- 15 Q. What is contained in your secretary's notebooks?
- 16 A. Her notebooks, appointment books?
- 17 Q. What are we talking about as far as the  
18 schedule, what kind of documents are we talking  
19 about?
- 20 A. In which records, in her regular appointment  
21 book?
- 22 Q. I don't know, Doctor. They're your records.  
23 I'm asking what they are.
- 24 A. But which records are you asking about?
- 25 Q. If there was a regular appointment for Mr. Cates

1 on December 30, where would that record be  
2 reflected?

3 A. It should be reflected in an appointment book.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Or as part of an outpatient chart somewhere on a  
6 piece of pink paper. The records could be in a  
7 number of places.

8 Q. Well, if it were part of an outpatient chart  
9 somewhere would it be in these records that we  
10 have got before us?

11 A. You would think that it should be but because  
12 this man has so many volumes of charts I noticed  
13 when I was looking through all of his records  
14 there are frequently notes misfiled  
15 chronologically out of order. Also when a  
16 person has recently been in the hospital an  
17 outpatient visit chart if he comes to the clinic  
18 occurs on a loose sheet of paper which may or  
19 may not get filed subsequently in the records.

20 Q. Is there anything in the chart that reflects he  
21 had a follow-up visit for December 30th?

22 A, I would really like to wait until I have looked  
23 through every piece of medical records --

24 Q. I thought you had.

25 A. -- available.



1 Q. I thought you had.

2 A. I haven't looked for that specifically.

3 Q. And you believe your appointment book for  
4 December of '87 is where?

5 A. It's somewhere in this orthopedics department.

6 Q. Where?

7 A. As I explained, we just moved so --

8 Q. Could you ask your secretary while we're here?  
9 She might know exactly where it is.

10 A. I really don't think so.

11 Q. Well, how do we know unless you ask?

12 A. Pardon me?

13 MR. SEIBEL: You want to make a  
14 document request, Chuck?

15 MR. KAMPINSKI: If it's here rather  
16 than come back and question the Doctor again.  
17 It only took us a year to ask her questions this  
18 time. Why don't you just ask. If it's here  
19 let's take a look at it.

20 A. Wait a minute. I just remembered something that  
21 I saw here.

22 Q. Go ahead, turn it around, go through whatever  
23 you need to, Doctor.

24 A. How about this'? This is a note from my  
25 secretary to me dated 12-23 which would be the

1 next day, Called, doing fine, no drainage, make  
2 appointment anytime. Thursday he can come.

3 Now, this would be her --

4 Q. Let's go slow.

5 A. This would be him calling me, caller,  
6 Travis Cates.

7 Q. On December 23?

8 A. On December 23.

9 Q. The day after the surgery?

10 A. Right.

11 Q. And?

12 A. And he was most likely instructed to do that as  
13 part of the post-op discharge orders from the  
14 ambulatory unit.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. When dress and change, what to do if gauze  
17 sticks.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. He has FU, follow-up 10 a.m. Wednesday, 12.

20 Q. So that was what time he was supposed to come  
21 back for follow-up?

22 A. Apparently, yes.

23 Q. Did he come back or call any time after December  
24 30th?

25 A. After December 30th?

1 Q. Sure. And before January 2nd?

2 A. I don't think so. At least I have no record

3 that he did or didn't.

4 Q. And who's writing is this, Doctor?

5 A. This writing is my secretary. This writing is

6 mine, MB.

7 Q. MB?

8 A. Mary-Blair.

9 Q. Oh, I see, This is a note from you to your --

10 A. This is to me.

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. Okay. From Travis with that information.

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. And then this is my response. This is just the

15 way that you customarily deal with these little

16 notes.

17 Q. Would all your phone messages relating to Travis

18 Cates be in your file or just these?

19 A. I do make an effort to save and file all phone

20 messages. Sometimes it's not always done but I

21 think my secretary is pretty thorough in

22 clipping these or collecting the little phone

23 messages. I don't really recall that Mr. Cates

24 very frequently called me. As I said before,

25 usually he dealt with Dr. Ballou as his primary

1 intermediary. I didn't see phone messages  
2 through here.

3 Q. Did you remove the prosthesis?

4 A. No, I did not remove the prosthesis.

5 Q. Did anybody?

6 A. Not to my knowledge.

7 Q. How was he treated in the hospital in 1988?

8 Were you involved with that treatment at all?

9 A. Yes, I was.

10 Q. And what was your involvement?

11 A. I was urgently called to see him in the  
12 intensive care unit and we took him to surgery  
13 and opened and drained both knees which had been  
14 found to have pus in them.

15 Q. So I guess the pus got in there between December  
16 30th and January 2nd, right?

17 A. Apparently so. I am not certain of that,  
18 actually.

19 Q. No? When did it get in there?

20 A. It may have been in there for an indefinite  
21 period of time.

22 Q. So that the needle aspirate just didn't get into  
23 the right place. Is that what you're saying?

24 A. You mean the original needle aspirate?

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. I'm sure that that was in the right place.

2 Q. All right. Maybe I just didn't understand the  
3 answer that you gave me a moment ago. You just  
4 said that --

5 A. Repeat the question.

6 Q. Yes. You just told me that the pus may have  
7 been in there for some extensive period of time?

8 MR. SEIBEL: She stated indefinite  
9 period of time.

10 Q. I'm sorry?

11 A. I really don't know but I know that when we took  
12 him to surgery on January 5th or I believe it  
13 was January 5th, and the knees had been  
14 aspirated the day before, there was pus in them.

15 Q. Well, once again my question is when did that  
16 pus get in there?

17 A. I don't know,

18 Q. Was it there when you saw him on December 30th?

19 A. Clinically it was my impression that it wasn't.

20 Q. You keep saying clinically. I mean are you  
21 talking about looking at it?

22 A. I'm talking about looking at a man that looks  
23 his usual state of health,

24 Q. What did the knee look like?

25 A. I don't think that the knee gave me any cause

1 for concern.

2 Q. What did it look like?

3 A. It would have had sutures from the excision.

4 Q. Was there pus coming out of it?

5 A. No, there wasn't.

6 MR. KAMPINSKI: All right, Can we  
7 have an agreement as to having all her records  
8 copied and then the court reporter can give her  
9 back her originals and provide copies?

10 MR. ZELLERS: I need copies,

11 MR. KAMPINSKI: Is that okay with  
12 you?

13 MR. SEIBEL: Well, I can take the  
14 original and make copies for everyone if that's  
15 what you'd like to do.

16 MR. KAMPINSKI: I meant the court  
17 reporter make copies. I have tried to get them  
18 through you guys and, you know, I have had a lot  
19 of trouble with that.

20 MR. SEIBEL: I have no objection to  
21 the court reporter taking the original file and  
22 making a copy for everyone and returning the  
23 original file to me.

24 MR. KAMPINSKI: Okay, that's fine.  
25 You want it as opposed to the Doctor.

1 MR. SEIBEL: Yes, I'll take it.

2 MR. ZELLERS: I want a copy, too,

3 MR. KAMPINSKI: All right. If I  
4 could have just a moment I think I will be able  
5 to finish up fairly quickly.

6 I don't have any more questions.

7 Mr. Zellers.

8 - - - -

9 CROSS-EXAMINATION OF MARY-BLAIR MATEJCZYK, M.D.

10 BY MR. ZELLERS:

11 Q. I have got just a couple, Doctor. I'm Mike  
12 Zellers and I represent Metro General Hospital  
13 which is now MetroHealth Medical Center.

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. Do you have any criticisms of any of the  
16 physicians or residents at Metro General  
17 Hospital as it relates to this case and the  
18 treatment of Mr. Cates?

19 A. Can you be specific?

20 Q. Sure.

21 A. That's a pretty broad question.

22 Q. There were orthopedic residents who were working  
23 with you I guess in conjunction with Mr. Cates,  
24 is that correct?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. And those orthopedic residents I would assume  
2 were working under your direction and control?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. Do you have any criticisms of any of the  
5 orthopedic residents in this case?

6 A. **Well**, I think my one minor criticism is the  
7 admitting diagnosis put down by Dr. Meyers of  
8 the, whatever it was, infected prosthetic knee.

9 Q. You don't believe that ultimately turned out to  
10 be correct, is that true?

11 A. That's true.

12 MR. KAMPINSKI: Objection.

13 Ultimately it was, in fact, correct.

14 Q. In terms of that specific admission, you don't  
15 agree with it, is that right, that admitting  
16 diagnosis put down by Dr. Meyer?

17 A. I think admitting diagnosis is a provisional  
18 diagnosis but when I examined Mr. Cates on  
19 November 13th in my opinion he was incorrect or  
20 perhaps simply vague in the way that he wrote  
21 the words in the chart.

22 Q. So as of November 13, as of that same day you  
23 had examined the patient and made your own  
24 decision in terms of what the diagnosis was --

25 A. That's correct.



1 Q. -- did the diagnosis, provisional diagnosis put  
2 down in the chart and the admitting history and  
3 physical by Dr. Meyer have any adverse  
4 consequences to him in terms of that admission?

5 MR. SEIBEL: To Mr. Cates?

6 Q. To Mr. Cates?

7 A. I really don't think it did.

8 Q. Because as of the 13th, you had seen him and you  
9 were in charge of the patient as of that time?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. Okay. Other than that, do you have any other  
12 criticisms of the orthopedic residents in this  
13 case?

14 A. At this time, not that I can think of.

15 Q. What does that mean at this time?

16 A. As I said, that's a pretty broad question and I  
17 haven't gone over word by word specifically --

18 Q. If at some point as you review this case, and if  
19 you do develop criticism of the orthopedic  
20 residents, can you communicate those to our  
21 lawyers? Would you do that?

22 MR. ZELLERS: And then Rob, will  
23 either you or John let me know?

24 MR. SEIBEL: Sure.

25 A. Sure.

1 MR. ICAMPINSKI: Well, can we know,  
2 too?

3 Q. But you'll do that, is that correct?

4 A. Yes, I will.

5 MR. KAMPINSKI: Which, let you know  
6 or let everybody know?

7 MR. SEIBEL: E think we're  
8 confident if the Doctor will let me or John  
9 Jackson know, but if we do get that information  
10 we'll deal with it at a later point.

11 MR. ZELLERS: But I ask you, Bob,  
12 if the Doctor has criticism of the orthopedic  
13 residents if she has not given me today --

14 MR. KAMPINSKI: Wait a minute.  
15 This is a deposition and if you're asking her a  
16 question on deposition that you want her to  
17 supplement I think I'm entitled to that  
18 information, too, if it gets supplemented.

19 MR. ZELLERS: You ask whatever  
20 questions you want. I'm asking this question  
21 now.

22 MR. SEIBEL: Mike, you are asking  
23 me, it's not my deposition.

24 MR. KAMPINSKI: Whose deposition is  
25 it?

1 MR. SEIBEL: It's the Doctor's  
2 deposition. You asked me whether I would give  
3 you that information and at this point I told  
4 you if the Doctor develops that information I'm  
5 sure I will know about it and we'll deal with it  
6 in the appropriate kind of way.

7 MR. ZELLERS: So you are not saying  
8 you'll tell me?

9 MR. SEIBEL: That's right.

10 Q. Doctor, what possible criticisms do you have of  
11 the orthopedic residents in this case at this  
12 time?

13 MR. SEIBEL: She just told you  
14 that.

15 A. At this time I have no specific criticisms of  
16 the orthopedic residents.

17 Q. What criticisms if any do you have of the nurses  
18 in this case?

19 A. I haven't really thought about it from that  
20 point of view but I have no specific criticism  
21 of the nurses.

22 Q. If you develop criticism of the nurses are you  
23 going to tell your lawyers about it?

24 A. Yes, I will.

25 Q. Okay. What criticisms do you have of the

1 infectious disease service in this case, if any?

2 A. I have no specific criticisms of the infectious  
3 disease service.

4 Q. Do you have any general criticisms of the  
5 infectious disease service?

6 A. No, I don't, I'd like to point out I think that  
7 we have one of the finest infectious disease  
8 services of any hospital in the city.

9 Q. So in terms of recommendations made in this case  
10 relating to treatment of Mr. Cates you have got  
11 no criticisms of those recommendations, is that  
12 correct?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Now, in terms of the lab slips, there were a  
15 couple of original lab reports in your office  
16 records that I have not seen and are not  
17 contained in your chart itself, or at least not  
18 the copy of the hospital chart that I have seen?

19 A. They should be.

20 Q. Okay. Well, how come -- can you pull those out  
21 for me, the green and white slips, the ones, the  
22 ones you have got your writing on, one dated  
23 December 13th or at least it has December 13th  
24 at the top and the other December 30th? They're  
25 in your chart, You just looked at them.

1 A. Your chart. You are getting copies of the chart  
2 so you'll have that.

3 Q. I know. I'd like to ask you some questions  
4 about it.

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. Can you look at them?

7 A. The green sheet?

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. This is really the only lab report I have in  
10 here.

11 Q. The only -- and I guess what I'm trying to get  
12 at is those look like original documents as  
13 opposed to copies **of** lab reports, is that  
14 correct?

15 A. These may be one of a set of original copies. I  
16 am not sure exactly how the lab processes this  
17 type of report as opposed to those computer  
18 printouts that we saw that were continually  
19 updated, I don't know.

20 Q. In terms **of** your chart you have got two green  
21 and white lab reports, is that right, eight and  
22 a half by eleven lab reports?

23 A. Right.

24 Q. And there's pen markings on each of them, your  
25 name is circled on each of them?

- 1 A. Right.
- 2 Q. And they say Clinic Copy at the top?
- 3 A. Right.
- 4 Q. And one I guess is dated November 13th of '87?
- 5 A. Right. The one that says AFB culture.
- 6 Q. Okay. And the other one is dated December 30th
- 7 of '87?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. And that's the one that contains the
- 10 handwriting, your handwriting on it?
- 11 A. That's correct.
- 12 Q. And it starts at the top with your name circled
- 13 and then a checkmark and under that it's got
- 14 chart and then at the bottom it's got wound
- 15 check excellent?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. Now, do you know how that document is
- 18 generated? I guess it's generated by the lab?
- 19 A. Right.
- 20 Q. When it says Clinic Copy, what clinic are they
- 21 referring to?
- 22 A. I think that that means outpatient clinic.
- 23 Q. Okay. Are these records kept differently than
- 24 inpatient clinic records or inpatient records?
- 25 A. Well, they all should ultimately get into the

1 patient's entire medical record, including  
2 inpatient and outpatient.

3 Q. Is there an outpatient clinic chart relating to  
4 Mr. Cates?

5 A. No. That's separate from his ongoing record.

6 Q. When it says clinic does that refer to  
7 orthopedic clinic?

8 A. Not specifically,

9 Q. It's just a general clinic of which a part of  
10 that is orthopedics?

11 A. It appears to me that somewhere along the line  
12 they have changed the laboratory report  
13 generating procedures, and I say that because  
14 most of the things that we looked at today look  
15 like computer generated kind of updates and  
16 things which looks different from this document,  
17 and it may simply be the difference in handling  
18 between inpatient and outpatient. I am not  
19 sure. I thought those all came from the same  
20 lab.

21 Q And when we're talking about document, just so  
22 we're straight, we're referring to this December  
23 30th document with your handwriting in the lower  
24 right-hand corner. Do you know who else if  
25 anyone were to receive a copy of that lab

1 report?

2 A. I really don't know. I think the fact that it  
3 says copy indicates that there is another set of  
4 these that went somewhere. Whether it's to the  
5 medical records or --

6 Q. You don't know, is that correct?

7 A, I don't know,

8 Q. Did you look through the chart in this case, I  
9 mean the hospital chart?

10 MR. SEIBEL: I believe those copies  
11 of those reports are in the outpatient records  
12 for this patient.

13 Q. Did you see them in the outpatient record,  
14 Doctor?

15 A. I looked through almost all of his records and  
16 one thing that I did notice, that there are  
17 various pieces of paper that are not filed  
18 chronologically, so -- I think that it's in  
19 there somewhere.

20 Q. Did you see it when you went through it?

21 A. I don't recall specifically.

22 MR. ZELLERS: Bob, do you recall  
23 seeing it when you went through it?

24 MR. SEIBEL: The copy I have, at  
25 least a copy in the group of records that I have



1 labeled outpatient records of that particular  
2 lab report that I was given from the hospital.

3 MR. ZELLERS: Could you help me  
4 find it? I just can't find it.

5 MR. SEIBEL: Let me see the second  
6 page of that.

7 THE WITNESS: I think they're  
8 completely different.

9 MR. SEIBEL: Okay. Here is one.

10 MR. ZELLERS: That's not an  
11 outpatient, that's an inpatient.

12 MR. SEIBEL: It's the same report.  
13 It's on the same format. That's what is  
14 confusing. Actually it says outpatient lab  
15 report. And this says outpatient lab report.

16 MR. SEIBEL: Here it is.

17 MR. ZELLERS: These are outpatient  
18 records?

19 MR. KAMPINSKI: Can we see that?

20 MR. SEIBEL: For the record, our  
21 nurse/paralegals have taken the copies of the  
22 medical records that were given to us by the  
23 hospital and organized them in a way that they  
24 have removed and separated all the outpatient  
25 records for this patient into one volume.

1 A. Within the original record they're mixed in.

2 Q. Now, how do we know -- can I see what you're  
3 looking at? So your understanding of this would  
4 be that one copy or the original would have gone  
5 to the outpatient records or whoever keeps, I  
6 guess it's got a stamp here that says medical  
7 records, and then you would have gotten a copy  
8 or the clinic would have gotten a copy so at  
9 least there were two generated. Is that your  
10 understanding?

11 A. I think that's an understanding. As we have  
12 noted, though, the format of the lab reporting  
13 system is confusing.

14 Q. There are a lot of records in this case. Are  
15 you aware of any notes or any records at all  
16 relating to a December 30th visit other than,  
17 you know, what is contained on these **lab**  
18 reports, the lab reports dated December 30th?

19 A. At this time I am not aware of any.

20 MR. KAMPINSKI: I'm sorry to  
21 interrupt you but let me get something  
22 straight. This came out of the hospital  
23 record?

24 MR. SEIBEL: Referred to me by the  
25 hospital, yes.

1 MR. KAMPINSICI: I'm sorry, go  
2 ahead.

3 MR. ZELLERS: You want a copy,  
4 Chuck? I will be happy to give you that. Why  
5 don't we mark that. I have never seen it quite  
6 frankly.

7 MR. SEIBEL: It has a different  
8 heading.

9 MR. KAMPINSKI: That's my point.

10 MR. ZELLERS: It may well be in  
11 there. The record's three feet thick. I guess  
12 we'll mark, I guess what I'd like to mark is  
13 just a copy of what we think is the original lab  
14 report dated December 30th, '87 which says  
15 Outpatient Lab Report at the top as Defendant  
16 CMGH's Exhibit 1.

17 MR. KAMPINSKI: But it also says  
18 Cleveland Metro General Hospital at the top  
19 whereas the Doctor's copy says Clinic Copy at  
20 the top.

21 MR. SEIBEL: This might be a  
22 multi-part document, has different headings.

23 MR. KAMPINSKI: I don't disagree.

24 MR. ZELLERS: We'll mark what is in  
25 the Doctor's chart Defendant CMGH's Exhibit 2.

1 Q. Doctor, in terms of the note that you got on the  
2 lab report, that's your only note from December  
3 30th, is that correct, that you're aware of  
4 right now?

5 A. I didn't find any other notes,

6 Q. But everything on here is your handwriting?

7 A. With the exception of the circle. I would have  
8 no reason to circle my own name.

9 Q. It looks like you would have called infectious  
10 disease?

11 A. To the best of my knowledge, yes.

12 Q. All right. And I believe that what you have got  
13 written there is no -- is that no treatment  
14 antibiotic per infectious disease? What does RX  
15 mean?

16 A. Treatment.

17 Q. If wound fine. Would you have asked a question  
18 of infectious disease? I mean do you recall the  
19 conversation at all?

20 A. We had encountered this situation really quite  
21 frequently. In fact, I'm dealing with a patient  
22 right now in a similar set of circumstances, so  
23 generally when it would happen we would say hey,  
24 I got this positive culture in this and this  
25 setting in a patient that you know has this and

1       this organism, what do you think. And then we  
2       might say gee, it's easy to treat, let's just do  
3       this, it's not going to -- we would talk things  
4       over that way. And this situation comes up a  
5       lot.

6   Q.   With infections in an orthopedic patient is it  
7       ultimately a joint decision in terms of what  
8       type of antibiotic and the duration or is this a  
9       decision made by infectious disease?

10  A.   Generally speaking it's a decision made by  
11       infectious disease in concurrence with the  
12       orthopedic department.

13  Q.   Do you have a say in that decision?

14  A.   What do you mean by say? It's kind of a  
15       consensus decision if you want to put it that  
16       way.

17  Q.   So I guess you have input into the decision?

18  A.   We have input from our clinical knowledge of the  
19       patient and their -- from the background of  
20       their specific orthopedic problem.

21  Q.   Is the clinical knowledge of the patient  
22       important in terms of deciding what type of  
23       antibiotic or for how long it should be  
24       continued?

25  A.   Yes, it is.

1 Q. Did anyone from infectious disease see Mr. Cates  
2 on December 30th?

3 A. I really don't have any direct way of knowing  
4 that.

5 Q. From your note can you tell me one way or the  
6 other whether someone from infectious disease  
7 saw the patient?

8 A. I don't think that it's likely but it wouldn't  
9 be impossible.

10 Q. So if I understand your note, infectious disease  
11 told you that it would be all right not to give  
12 antibiotic treatment if the wound was fine or  
13 looked fine?

14 A. Right, and I think the reasoning behind that is  
15 that this specimen is from tissue that was  
16 widely excised at surgery, so to my way of  
17 thinking this positive culture is now gone and  
18 removed from his body.

19 Q. so --

20 A. This specific circumstance.

21 Q. So I take it then once you got that advice or  
22 that input from infectious disease you then went  
23 and you looked at Mr. Cates' wound?

24 A. Right.

25 Q. And your observation and your clinical judgment

1           was that the wound was excellent? Is that your  
2           note?

3   A.   That's my note, yes. I'm quite certain that if  
4           it weren't excellent he would have been  
5           readmitted to the hospital and had an entirely  
6           different course.

7   Q.   And you would have done that, right? I mean you  
8           would have admitted him if the wound did not  
9           look excellent?

10  A.   Yes.

11  Q.   And if the wound didn't look fine would you have  
12          checked back with infectious disease to see what  
13          should be done?

14  A.   Yes.

15  Q.   But in terms of the specific discussion with the  
16          infectious disease person on December 30th, do  
17          you remember any more details than you have  
18          already given us today?

19  A.   At this time I really don't.

20  Q.   Is it an oversimplification to say that you  
21          don't treat just lab values, but you have to  
22          treat the overall clinical picture when you're  
23          looking at an orthopedic infection?

24  A.   That's really not an oversimplification about  
25          any patient with an infection.

1 Q. So you'd agree with that statement?

2 A. Little confused with the double negatives but I  
3 think I agree with you.

4 Q. Okay.

5 MR. ZELLERS: I have got nothing  
6 further. Thank you.

7 MR. KAMPINSKI: Just a few things.

8 - - - - -

9 FURTHER CROSS-EXAMINATION OF MARY-BLAIR

10 MATEJCZYK, M.D.

11 BY MR. KAMPINSKI:

12 Q. You don't ignore lab values though either, do  
13 you, Doctor?

14 A. I think that you take them into consideration  
15 along with the rest of the picture.

16 Q. So the answer is you don't ignore them?

17 A. I really don't like the way that you're saying  
18 that.

19 Q. Can you answer it? Whether you like it or not,  
20 can you answer it?

21 A. Can you define ignore?

22 Q. Ignore in the context of not doing anything  
23 about the fact that somebody's got an infection?

24 A. You may not do anything about a positive lab  
25 value.



1 Q. Doctor, if you would refer back to the progress  
2 notes, please,, for November 14th. We stopped  
3 reading that infectious disease note.

4 A. Right.

5 Q. Okay. We stopped at I think right knee found to  
6 have appreciable?

7 A. Effusion.

8 Q. Effusion and superficial right knee ulcer with,  
9 what is that, obvious purulent --

10 A. I think we decided it was obvious.

11 Q. Purulent drainage?

12 A. Right.

13 Q. And what does the next sentence say?

14 A. This is very small writing. It's difficult to  
15 read.

16 Q. Admitted to the orth service?

17 A. Okay.

18 Q. For probable septic right knee, paren,  
19 (prosthetic knee)?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. That's not your resident writing that, right?  
22 That's the infectious disease person?

23 A. Infectious disease person.

24 Q. So he or she was wrong also then, right?

25 A. Well, either that or they're just simply

1 repeating or recapping or reiterating  
2 information that they got from somewhere else.

3 Q. Sure. Well, if you go to the next page,  
4 Doctor.

5 A. I think if you're asking me to continue the  
6 note, the aspirate --

7 Q. Read the whole thing. I asked you to do that  
8 before. Go ahead.

9 A. Knee aspirate fluid clearly or cloudy, bloody,  
10 probably drainage with 614. I'm not sure  
11 exactly what that number means. It might be the  
12 cell count although it's different than the  
13 number we have talked about on the lab. TP3  
14 gram. Here we go. 216 white cells. Probably  
15 this is polys, 6 percent. This is the  
16 differential, lymphocytes, 84, which again, is  
17 not typical of infection. Monos, 10. Gram  
18 stain of the fluid with polys -- I can't make  
19 out that word. No identifiable bacteria noted.

20 Q. Now, this is November 14th at 10 a.m. he is  
21 writing this note, right?

22 MR. SEIBEL: He or she.

23 MR. KAMPINSKI: Right.

24 Q. Whoever the ID is?

25 A. That is the date and time on it, but I think

1           that this is not a note that was contemporaneous  
2           with the time they saw him.

3   Q.   When was it written?

4   A.   I think it may well have been written on the  
5           14th but if you look --

6   Q.   The next note is November 14th at 3:30?

7   A.   That's correct, but if you look back in the  
8           orders I believe that they ordered antibiotics,  
9           infectious disease ordered the antibiotics at  
10          November 13th at 8:30 p.m. so they were seeing  
11          him, treating him and then just writing the  
12          summary of the next day.

13   Q.   All right. The point, though, I guess that I'm  
14          trying to make is he already had the lab  
15          results, correct, when he wrote this note  
16          whether it was the 13th or the 14th?

17   A.   That's correct. At least these preliminary lab  
18          results would have been available within a few  
19          hours.

20   Q.   When did you get the results of the tests done  
21          on November 22nd, I'm sorry, December 22nd?  
22          When did you get it?

23   A.   Are you talking about the culture?

24   Q.   Yes.

25   A.   I really don't know but a culture takes several

1 days whereas the examinations of the gram stain,  
2 the results are available virtually within a few  
3 minutes.

4 Q. Well, I thought the last, sentence was no  
5 identifiable bacteria noted. Isn't that what  
6 you said?

7 A. On the gram stain which is a different test than  
8 the culture --

9 Q. Go ahead.

10 A. Continuing on to the next page. Swab of right  
11 knee, pustule arrow, positive staph.

12 Q. I'm sorry?

13 A. Arrow positive staph.

14 Q. Well, how did they get that information?

15 A. I believe that that is a gram stain of the swab,  
16 although I am not certain from the way it's  
17 written.

18 Q. As opposed to a culture?

19 A. As opposed to a culture. I can't be sure from  
20 the way that this is written. Exam something  
21 for nontoxic appearance, meaning that he didn't  
22 look sick.

23 Q. Let me stop you again just so I'm operating on  
24 the same sensors you are. The December 22nd one  
25 is a culture as opposed to gram stain?

- 1 A That's correct.
- 2 Q Okay. Go ahead. I'm sorry.
- 3 A Oh, exam significant for nontoxic appearance.
- 4 Q Meaning he wasn't septic?
- 5 A Meaning he wasn't sick.
- 6 Q Septic?
- 7 A Correct.
- 8 Q Go ahead.
- 9 A Probably pleasant, cooperative white male.
- 10 Severe rheumatoid changes involving hands,
- 11 ankles, feet, elbows.
- 12 Q Why don't we skip down. Why don't we skip down
- 13 to -- is that assess? Do you see that, the
- 14 middle of the page?
- 15 A Okay.
- 16 Q That's the assessment?
- 17 A There's a lot of other information in here about
- 18 a buttocks abscess, no cellulitis, bilateral
- 19 effusions, very little pain, no arrhythmia,
- 20 warmth.
- 21 Q Assess?
- 22 A Assess.
- 23 Q Uh-huh.
- 24 A Probable septic, prosthetic right knee with
- 25 superficial furuncle over patella, and I have

1 pointed out the reasons that I disagree with  
2 that wording.

3 Q. Sure.

4 A. Severe RA. On steroids. Probable mitral  
5 regurg. murmur with, I think that's history of  
6 rheumatic fever.

7 Q. And --

8 A. Continue?

9 Q. Yes, sure. What is the next one?

10 A. Suggest patient started on Nafcillin I.V., two  
11 grams I.V., Q4 last p.m.

12 Culture for staph carrier. Right ear  
13 culture, may need biopsy of this nonhealing  
14 ulcer.

15 Number four, Will require repeat aspirate  
16 of the, looks like right ear. It's an illegible  
17 word. Local care to, it looks like buttocks  
18 abscess. Will check cultures.

19 Q. This Dr. Meyer, is he still at the hospital?

20 A. He's a resident in the orthopedic program. He  
21 is not at this hospital.

22 Q. Where is he at?

23 A. Right now? He's either at University or at the  
24 Veteran's Hospital.

25 Q. On November 17th there's a note by Dr. Meyer.

1           If you would turn to it, please. Do you see  
2           that where it says ortho?

3   A.   At the bottom of the page?

4   Q.   Yes. What does the third line say after O, what  
5           does O mean?

6   A.   I think it means objective.

7   Q.   Okay. It's part of the --

8   A.   Right.

9   Q.   Go ahead. What is it?

10   A.   It says, Right knee, wound center with less  
11           purulent drainage, decreased swelling and  
12           arrythmia,

13   Q.   So there was still purulent drainage on the  
14           17th? I mean less but still some?

15   A.   I think that's a vague and subjective  
16           description. There were times through here  
17           where there was no drainage, serious drainage,  
18           various descriptions by various people.

19   Q.   Sure. That all gets into what you were  
20           referring to before as the clinical picture,  
21           right?

22   A.   No. I think it's different than the clinical  
23           picture in that it's words that may not have a  
24           specific and precise definition to each person  
25           that's using them.

1 Q. Well, let's go to what the nurse saw. How about  
2 November 17th at 5:30? You want to turn the  
3 page? You got this under, let's see, oh, what  
4 does it say there?

5 A. Tell me again where you are looking.

6 Q. Sure. November 17th. Do you have that, that  
7 O? What does that say?

8 A. O, quoting from the nurses' note, Right knee,  
9 dressing. Right knee dressing changed for small  
10 thick yellow drainage, Wound, yellow tissue.  
11 Normal saline wet to dry. NSWSD applied.

12 Q. That was Nurse Nagy, right? How about if we go  
13 to November 18th at 3:30? What did she see  
14 under O?

15 A. Scant amount, thick yellow drainage. I think if  
16 you're going to read every nurses' note that  
17 says one thing you should read every nurses'  
18 note that says another thing, too.

19 Q. One of the wonderful things about the law is my  
20 client gets an attorney, you get an attorney,  
21 and I get to ask you questions and some day he  
22 will, too. November 19th ortho note for  
23 Dr. Meyer. Do you see that, Doctor?

24 Yes, Subjective, I feel better today than any  
25 other day since I have been here.



1 Q. How about O?  
2 A. AVSS.  
3 Q. What is that?  
4 A. Afebrile, vital signs stable.  
5 Q. How about the wound?  
6 A. Wound decreased, drainage decreased, swelling.  
7 Q. So there was still some drainage then?  
8 A. As you would expect. It's an open wound.  
9 Q. Before he was discharged, Doctor, on the 30th  
10 of, I'm sorry, on the first of December you see  
11 the nurses' notes from M. Schrem, RN at 1:30  
12 p.m.  
13 A. Okay.  
14 Q. Do you see that, ma'am?  
15 A. It looks like Schrem, S C H R E M.  
16 Q. Why don't you read that note?  
17 A. Problem, quoting from the nurses' note, Impaired  
18 skin integrity. Subjective, quote from the  
19 patient, Bad news, it started draining.  
20 Objective, Wound closed with suture intact, no  
21 drainage, S slash.  
22 Q. On old dressing?  
23 A. Without drainage on old dressing this a.m.  
24 Q. Go ahead.  
25 A. This p.m. after patient ambulating, wound

1 drained small amount, clear sanguinous  
2 drainage. Dr. Meyer notified. Wound culture  
3 sent. Patient complains of arthritis pain this  
4 a.m., medicated times one with Percodan one  
5 tab, Vistaril, 25 milligrams. Afebrile.  
6 Assessment, wound drain small clear sang, means  
7 bloody drainage.

8 Q. Could you show me the results of that culture,  
9 Doctor?

10 A. Not real quickly but I would assume that they're  
11 in here somewhere.

12 Q. Well, why don't you point it out to me.

13 A. Have you seen them in yours before we go  
14 churning through the lab reports again?

15 Q. I haven't.

16 A. Maybe if I start from the back. Okay. I have  
17 this 12-1. That was sent to the lab, 1628, and  
18 then I have, here we go, final ID, organism one,  
19 one colony, coagulation, negative staph which  
20 was a contaminant most likely.

21 Q. I beg your pardon. I don't understand what you  
22 just said. This is the December -- which volume  
23 is this in?

24 MR. SEIBEL: This is the next  
25 admission, Chuck.

1 Q. That's the --

2 MR. SEIBEL: 13.

3 A. It looks like it was filed in the subsequent  
4 volume.

5 Q. Okay. Fine. So what we have got -- by the way,  
6 is this an aspirate or a swab or can't you tell?

7 A. Swab.

8 Q. Swab.

9 A. This was of the small amount of drainage.

10 Q. It says plates yield one colony coagulase,  
11 negative staph. What does that mean, one  
12 colony, coagulase?

13 A. That's not the original infecting organism and  
14 most likely an insignificant culture.

15 Q. What is one colony coagulase? Is that an  
16 organism?

17 A. Well, one colony, and again, I am not an  
18 infectious disease expert, but I believe when  
19 they plate it out on the round plate, a truly  
20 positive culture will have many, many colonies.  
21 During the laboratory process it's possible that  
22 one germ fell on that one plate or a germ got  
23 onto the swab and produced one colony of a  
24 nonpathogenic organism, so it's an insignificant  
25

1 Q. What about thio yields enterobacteria?

2 A. The fact that it's not on the plate indicates  
3 that it's not a true positive culture.

4 Q. What does the word enterobacteria mean?

5 A. That's just another type of germ. It comes from  
6 the bowels. So basically that culture was  
7 negative.

8 Q. Resistant to Ampicillin and to Cefazolia. What  
9 does that mean?

10 A. Preliminary organism -- I think that's referring  
11 to this. It looks like the sensitivities were  
12 run through -- these are the various  
13 antibiotics.

14 Q. Doctor, on December 22nd why didn't you do an  
15 aspirate of the knee or did you?

16 A. No, I didn't do it because I had no clinical  
17 reason to suspect that the knee was involved  
18 in -- was probably thinking that it wasn't worth  
19 taking a risk of introducing a needle into the  
20 knee joint again. There was really no --

21 Q. You were doing surgery, weren't you, on this --

22 A. Sure. We were in the operating room.

23 Q. Say that again. You didn't want to introduce a  
24 needle into the joint. Is that what you just  
25 said?

1 A. I really saw no clinical reason to even be  
2 worried at that point that the knee joint had  
3 pus in it.

4 Q. So you just did swabs?

5 A. Of the area around the ulcer that was excised.

6 Q. And you got moderate growth staph from the  
7 swabs, right?

8 A. Right.

9 Q. And didn't treat it?

10 A. That's correct.

11 MR. SEIBEL: With antibiotics?

12 A. Okay. With antibiotics, I really did not feel  
13 there was a clinical reason to treat that.

14 Q. The staph that grew out, was it resistant to  
15 antibiotics?

16 A. Are you referring to this report?

17 Q. Sure. The sensitivities are listed here,  
18 Clindamycin, Tetracycline and Vancomycin.  
19 Resistant to Cefazolin, Erythromycin, Oxacillin  
20 and Penicillin.

21 Q. Is this the same strain that had been treated  
22 when he was in the hospital earlier?

23 A, I am not really sure.

24 Q. Why don't you take a look?

25 A. I assume that it was,

- 1 Q. You assume that it was. Well, he was treated  
2 with antibiotics for it before, wasn't he?
- 3 A. Yes. He has been on antibiotics and then off  
4 antibiotics at the time this was taken.
- 5 Q. And my point though is whether it was found to  
6 exist before he was treated with antibiotics,  
7 correct?
- 8 A. He was treated with Vancomycin, yes.
- 9 Q. And I thought you told me earlier that if it's  
10 resistant to methicillin that it's harder to  
11 treat, correct?
- 12 A. Not necessarily it's harder to treat, it's what  
13 I meant to say when we were having that  
14 discussion was that it's hard to eradicate  
15 totally from the body.
- 16 Q. Especially if you don't keep giving antibiotics,  
17 isn't it? It makes it even tougher?
- 18 A. I think that for methicillin resistant staph you  
19 can treat that with antibiotics forever and  
20 never get rid of it.
- 21 Q. Or you can treat it for -- well, are you saying  
22 that a treatment of 14 days is inadequate?
- 23 A. No. I'm saying that for the soft tissue  
24 infection that he had, 14 days of treatment is  
25 adequate.

1 Q. Do you have any literature that would suggest  
2 that a treatment of days as opposed to months  
3 and maybe years is appropriate for this strain  
4 of staph?

5 A. In what clinical setting? In a soft tissue  
6 isolated local setting?

7 Q. Okay. Let's use that if that makes you feel  
8 good.

9 A. Well, I don't have any literature at my  
10 fingertips concerning that.

11 Q. Well, are you aware of any?

12 A. I really don't read the infectious disease  
13 literature but I think that it would be  
14 generally accepted for soft tissue infection.  
15 Two weeks of I.V. antibiotics would be  
16 appropriate course of treatment.

17 Q. Okay. And then when it recurs or when it's  
18 found again as a result of cultures that you  
19 don't reintroduce antibiotics, any literature  
20 even if you call it soft tissue or whatever you  
21 want to call it that you don't restart  
22 antibiotics, Doctor?

23 A. I haven't really searched the literature for  
24 that specific point.

25 MR. KAMPINSKI: That's all. I

1 have.

2 MR. ZELLERS: I don't have any.

3 MR. SEIBEL: I assume you are  
4 having this written up.

5 MR. KAMPINSKI: You assume  
6 correctly.

7 MR. SEIBEL: **We'll** sign it.

8

9

10 MARY-BLAIR MATEJCZYK, M.D.

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## C E R T I F I C A T E

The State of Ohio, ) SS:  
County of Cuyahoga.)

I, Aneta I. Fine, a Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, authorized to administer oaths and to take and certify depositions, do hereby certify that the above-named MARY-BLAIR MATEJCZYK, M.D., was by me, before the giving of her deposition, first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; that the deposition as above-set forth was reduced to writing by me by means of stenotypy, and was later transcribed into typewriting under my direction; that this is a true record of the testimony given by the witness, and was subscribed by said witness in my presence; that said deposition was taken at the aforementioned time, date and place, pursuant to notice or stipulations of counsel; that I am not a relative or employee or attorney of any of the parties, or a relative or employee of such attorney or financially interested in this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office, at Cleveland, Ohio, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 19 \_\_\_\_.

Aneta I. Fine, Notary Public, State of Ohio  
1750 Midland Building, Cleveland, Ohio 44115  
My commission expires February 27, 1991

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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### EDUCATION

M.D. cum laude                      Medical College of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pa. (1975)  
  
B.S. cum laude                      (Physics) Allegheny College  
Meadville, Pa. (1971)

### POST GRADUATE TRAINING

Internship                      Cleveland Clinic Foundation  
Cleveland, Ohio (7/75 to 6/76)  
  
Residency                      Cleveland Clinic Foundation  
Cleveland, Ohio (7/76 to 6/80)  
  
Fellowship .                      Hospital for Sick Children  
Pediatric Orthopaedics      Toronto, Ontario (7/80 to 6/81 )

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Instructor Orthopaedic Surgery  
Case Western Reserve University (8/81 to 8/82)  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106  
  
Assistant Professor Orthopaedic Surgery  
Case Western Reserve University (8/82 to present)  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

### HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS

University Hospitals Medical Staff (8/81 to present)  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106  
  
Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital (8/81 to present)  
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

### BOARD CERTIFICATION

American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, 1982

MEDICAL LICENSE

Ohio (#25-04-6116) ( May 1981)

Ontario (#21728) (inactive)

HONORS

A.O.A. North American Traveling Fellowship (1980)

Kappa Delta, American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
Orthopaedic Research Award (1979)

SICOT International Orthopaedic Research Award (1978)

William E. bower Fellowship Thesis Prize (1978)  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Albert E. Klinkicht Research Award  
American Orthopaedic Foot Society (1976)

Alpha Omega Alpha Medical. Honor Society (1975)  
Medical College of Pennsylvania

Senior Medical Student Surgery Prize (1975)  
Medical College of Pennsylvania

Lange Award Outstanding Junior Medical Student (1974)  
Medical College of Pennsylvania

Sigma Xi Undergraduate Student Research Award (1970)  
Allegheny College

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (1983)

Cleveland Orthopaedic Club (1982)

American Association of University Women (1971)

American Medical Women's Association (1975)

Orthopaedic Research Society (1977)

HOSPITAL COMMITTEES

Orthopaedic Clinic Management Team (1983)

CMGH Subcommittee of the Medical Executive Committee (1981)

CMGH Housestaff Committee (1981)

CMGH Utilization Review Committee (1981)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Arthritis Foundation Speaker's Bureau (1984)

Arthritis Foundation Subcommittee on Business and Industry  
(1986)

PUBLISHED PAPERS

1. Preliminary Observations on the Weight-Bearing Surfaces of the Human Ankle Joint. Greenwald, A.S., Matejczyk, M.B., Keppler, L.D. Surgical Forum XXVII:505, 1976,
2. Design Development, and Clinical Application of a Total Wrist Replacement. Greenwald, A.S., Matejczyk, M.B., Porritt, D.L. et al. Joint Replacement in the Upper Limb, Institute of Mechanical Engineers, London, 1977.
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5. Reversible Cartilage Staining Technique for Defining Articular Surfaces, Black, J.D., Matejczyk, M.B., and Greenwald, A.S. Clin. Orthop. 159:265, 1981.
6. Stability Characteristics of Total Knee Replacements, Greenwald, A.S., Black, J.D., and Matejczyk, M.B. A.A.O.S. Instructional Course Lectures XXX:301, 1981.

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2. Management of Fractures in Neuromuscular Disease. Problem Fractures in Children, Thompson, G. and Houton, 6. eds., Butterworths, London, 1983.
3. Biomechanics of Ankle Fractures. Fractures of the Ankle, Yablon, I. ed., Churchill-Livingston, New York, 1983.
4. Biomechanics of the Hip (Chapter 3) and Biomechanics of Total Hip Replacement (Chapter 44) with Greenwald, A.S., The Hip and Its Disorders, M.E. Steinberg, W.B. Saunders, Philadelphia, to be published in 1988.

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