In The Matter Of:

Dabulewicz v. The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

> Craig Saunders, M.D. April 6, 1999

John J. Prout & Associates, Inc. Certified Shorthand Reporters 65 Springfield Avenue Springfield, NJ 07081 (973) 379-7015 FAX: (973) 379-7336

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Word Index included with this Min-U-Script®

Page 1 IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS	Lawyer's Notes	er?
LORAIN COUNTY OHIO		[20] A: Cleveland Clinic.
CASE NO. 97 CV 118157 TERRY HERBERT DABULEWICZ, etc., :		[21] Q: And currently who is your employer?
: Civii Action		[22] A: St. Barnabas Health Care System.
Plaintiffs, : DEPOSITION UPON : ORAL EXAMINATION		[23] Q: And other than St. Barnabas do you [24
vs. ; Of		provide professional services for any other en
THE CLEVELAND CLINIC FOUNDATION,:		tity?
et al., : CRAIG SAUNDERS, M.D.		1251 A : No.
Defendants. TRANSCRIPT of the deposition of		Page 4
CRAIG SAUNDERS, M.D., a Defendant, called for Oral		[1] Q: And at the time that you rendered care [2] to
Examination by the Plaintiffs in the above-entitled action, by and before PATRICIA J. RUSSONIELLO, a		Charlotte Herbert did you provide professional [3]
Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, at the NEWARK BETH ISRAEL		services for anyone other than the Cleveland
MEDICAL CENTER, 201 Lyons Avenue, J Building, 4th		Clinic?
Floor, Room 3, Newark, New Jersey, on Tuesday, April 6. 1999. commencing at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon.		[4] A : No.
COMPUTER TRANSCRIPTION BY JOHN J. PROUT & ASSOCIATES, INC.		[5] Q: Have you ever had your deposition taken [6]
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTERS		before?
65 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE SPRINGFIELD, N. J. 07081		[7] A : Yes.
	-	[8] Q: How many times?
APPEARANCES: Page 2		[9] MS. CARULAS:Just note my objection but 110
BECKER & MISHKIND, ESQS.		go ahead.
By JEANNE M. TOSTI, ESQ. Skylight Office Tower		[11] A: I don'tknow.
1660 West Second Street, Suite 660 Cleveland, Ohio 44113		[12] Q: More than five?
Tel: (216) 241-2600 Fax: (216) 241-5757		[13] MS . CAWULAS:Note my objection.
Attorneys for Plaintiffs ROETZEL & ANDRESS, ESQS.		[14] A: Probably not.
By ANNA M. CARULAS, ESQ. One Cleveland Center		[15] Q: And in what capacity was your deposition
1375 East 9th Street, Suite 1650		[16] being taken, and by that I mean were you an
Cleveland, Ohio 44114 Tel: (216) 623-0150		expert [17] witness or a defendant in the case or a
Attorneys lor Defendants,		face witness?
Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Craig Saunders, M.D., and Gary Saitus, D.O.		[18] MS. CARULAS: Objection.
MAZANEC, RASKIN & RYDER CO. By BEVERLY A. HARRIS, ESQ. (via telephone)		[19] A: Defendant.
100 Franklin Row 34305 Solon Road		[20] Q: Now, I'm sure that counsel has reviewed [21] some of the rules of the deposition for you. I'm
Cleveland, Ohio 44139		[22] just going to go through them briefly.
Tel: (440) 248-7906 (440) 248-8861 Attorneys for Defendant, Atul Hulyalkar, M.D.		[23] This is a question-and-answer session. [24] It's
INDEX WITNESS DIRECT		under oath.It's important that you understand [25]
CRAIG SAUNDERS, M.D.		the questions that I'masking. If you don't
By Ms. Tosti 3 EXHIBITS		Page 5
NUMBER DESCRIPTION PAGE Exhibit 1 Eight-page curriculum vitae 3		[1] understand the question, let me know. I'll be
	-	happy [2] to repeat it or to rephrase it;
Page 3		otheiwise, I'm going [3] to assume that you
[1] (Exhibit 1 marked for identification.) [2] C R		unclerstood the question and that [4] you'reable to answer it and I would also ask that [5] you
A I G S A U N D E R S, M.D., having been duly [3] sworn by the Notary, testifies as follows:		give all of your answers verbally because our [6]
[4] MS.TOSTI: May I have agreement from [5]		court reporter can'ttake down head nods or
counsel that Ohio Civil Rules will apply and that		hand [7] motions.
[6] there be a waiver to any defect in notice or		[8] If at some point you wish to refer to [9] the
service [7] of this deposition?		medical records please feel free to do so. [10] Obviously counsel has a set of records that you
8] MS. CARULAS: Yes.		can [11] refer to.
9] MS. HARRIS: Yes.		[12] Also at some point during this [13] deposition
10] MS. TOSTI: Hang on just one minute [11] bec-		your counsel or Miss Harris may choose to [14]
ause I'mgoing to delete some questions that $I_{[12]}$		enter an objection. You are still required to
have here based on the CV that you provided.		answer [15] my question unless counsel instructs you not to.
[13] Bev, Dr. Saunders provided a curriculum [14] vitae and that will be attached as Exhibit 1 to this		[16] Do you understand those instructions?
[15] deposition.		1171 A: Yes.
16] MS. HARRIS: Fine.		
17] DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. TOSTI:		[18] Q: Now, Doctor, you had mentioned that you [19] had been named as a defendant in a medical
[18] Q: Doctor, at the time that you rendered [19]		negligence [20] case before. Is that correct?
[17]	1	

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[22] A: Yes.	Lawyer's Notes	Page 8
[23] Q: Okay. How many tinies have you been 1241		[1] A: Couple of years ago.
named as a defendant?		[2] Q: And what was the allegation of [3] neg-
[25] MS. CARULAS: I'll just have a		ligence in that case?
Page 6		[4] MS. CARULAS: I just want to note if any [5] of these cases are ongoing cases I don'tthink it's[6]
[1] continuing line of objection here. Go ahead.		appropriate for you to testify about themin this [7]
[2] A: Three or four.		case. Simply say they're ongoing. I don't know if
[3] Q: And where were those cases filed?		[8] any of them are but if there are note that.[9] A: This is an ongoing case.
[4] A : Cleveland and California.		[10] Q: Okay. Any of the cases that were filed [11]
[5] Q: Do you recall the plaintiff's name in [6] the last case that was filed against you?		against you in Cleveland, are there any that have [12] been resolved?
against me.		[13] A: I believe these are the only two. This [14] one and that one.
[9] Q : Well, the <i>cine</i> prior to this.		[15] Q: There's no other cases that were filed [16]
[10] A: I got a block.		against you other than this one and the Broad-
[11] Q: Okay. Do you recall the plaintiff's [12] name in any of the other cases that have been filed [13]		water [17] case in the Cleveland area?
against you?		[18] A: These are the only ones I'm dealing with. [19] Q: Okay. I understand that those two are [20]
[14] A: One's name was Penny Taylorin California.		ongoing but any that have been resolved in which
[15] Q : What was the allegation of negligence [16]		they [21] were either settled, went to trial and
that was made in those cases? And if you can recall [17] from each of the three or four cases I'd		there was a [22] verdict or dismissed?
like to know [18] the allegation for each offliose.		[23] A : Not that I recall at this time.
[19] MS. CARULAS: And again just a [20] con- tinuing line of objection. Agreed?		[24] Q : Now, Doctor, what states are you [25] currently licensed in?
[21] MS. TOSTI: Yes.		Page 9
[22] MS. CARULAS: Okay. Go ahead.		[1] A: New Jersey and Ohio.
[23] A: Penny Taylor case was a lady that I had [24]		[2] Q: And at the time that you rendered care [3] to Charlotte Smith you were licensed in Ohio?
operated on, put in a mitral valve. Some time later		[4] A: Correct.
[25] the valve clotted off. Another surgeon oper- ated on		[5] MS. CARULAS: Just for the record, [6] Herbert.
Page 7		171 MS. TOSTI: I'm sorry.
(1) her but she arrested and had a neurologic injury.		[8] Q: Charlotte Herbert. [9] <i>Has</i> your license to practice in any [10] state ever been subject to a
[2] Q : How was that case resolved?		proceeding by the state [11] Medical Board? [12] A: No.
[3] THE WITNESS: I'm not sure I know the [4]		[13] Q: Have you ever acted as an expert in a [14]
terminology. [5] A: I mean, what do you mean how was it [6]		medical/legal proceeding?
resolved?		[15] A : No.
[7] MS. CARULAS: If you —		[16] Q : Have you ever given testimony in any [17] case of a similar subject matter to this case —
[8] Q: Was it settled?Did it go to trial?[9] Was there		[18] A: No.
a defense verdict, a plaintiff'sverdict or [10] was it dismissed without any judgment or settlement [11] in either side's favor?		(19) Q : — and — let me finish my question — [20] and involving issues of post-operative wound [21]
[12] A: I don'tknow if it went to trial or not [13] but		infection?
it was — it was settled and an agreement given [14]		[22] A: No.
in favor of the plaintiff.		[23] Q : Now, Doctor, you are Board certified. [24] Is that correct?
[15] Q: Okay. Do you recall the plaintiff's [16] attorney's name in that case?		[25] A: Yes.
[17] A : No.		Page 10
[18] Q : What about the other cases that were [19]		[1] Q: Okay. What areas are you Board [2] certified
filed against you?Do you recall the allegations of		in?
(20) negligence of any of the ones that were filed in the (21) Cleveland area?		[3] A: Thoracic surgery.
[22] A: Yeah, The name of that was Broadwater.		[4] Q: Is there a subspecialty Board in [5] car-
[23] Q: That was the plaintiff's name?		diovascular surgery available? [6] A: No.
[24] A: Yes.		
[25] Q: Okay, When was that case filed?		[7] Q: When did you receive your certification [8] in thoracic surgery?

		April 6,1999
[9] A: It's on my CV.	Lawyer's Notes	[14] Do any of these publications deal with [15] the
[10] Q : I'm not —		subject matter of post-operative infections?
[11] MS. CARULAS: Page 3.		[16] A: No.
[12] THE WITNESS: Should be, anyway.		[17] Q: Any deal with the subject matter of [18]
[13] MS. CARULAS: No. 1981 and recertified –		mediastinitis?
[14] THE WITNESS: Yeah.		1191 A : No.
[15] MS. CARULAS: '89. [16] MS. TOSTI: I'm not —		1201 Q: Any with the subject matter of 1211 en- docarditis?
[17] MS. CARULAS: Page 3. If you look at [18] Page		[22] A: No.
3 and look down under Certifications it'sone, [19] two, three, four — fifth line.		[23] Q: The presentations that you have listed [24] are any that are listed on this curriculum vitae, do [25] any of those deal with those subjects?
[20] MS . TOSTI: Oh, okay. I'm sorry.		Page 13
[21] Q:Now, in August of 1995 what position did[22] you hold with the Cleveland Clinic?		[1] A: No.
[23] A: I was a staff surgeon at the Cleveland [24] Clinic and was also in charge of the affiliate [25] programs which included Elyria.		[2] Q: Okay. The curriculumvitae that we have [3] marked as Plaintiff'sExhibit 1 is it current and [4] up-to-date?
 Page 11		[5] A: It's probably a few months behind.
Page 11 [1] Q: And in regard to your position as head [2] of		[6] Q: Are there any additions or corrections [7] that you'd like to make?
the affiliate program what duties and [3] re- sponsibilities did you have?		[8] A : No.
[4] A: Was both administrative and clinical.		[9] Q: What have you reviewed for this [10] dep- osition?
[5] Q: How many hours a week did you spend on[6] the administrative aspect of your position?		[11] A: I've reviewed some of the medical [12] recorcis that were provided to me by my lawyer.
[7] MS. CARULAS: Just note my objection. [8] If you know.		[13] Q: Okay. Could you tell me what portions [14] of the records that you've reviewed?
[9] A : I don'tknow.		[15] A: Summaries that the — the emergency
[10] Q: Approximately, Doctor?		room [16] visit and the hospitalization in Elyria.
[11] MS. CARULAS: Just note my objection. [12] No guess. If you have		[17] Q: Have you reviewed any of the Cleveland [18] Clinic records from Cleveland Clinic proper?
[13] A: I have no idea.		[19] A: No.
 [14] Q: Was half of your time or more than half — [15] A: No. 		[20] Q: Have you referred to any textbooks or [21] articles in preparation for this deposition?
[16] Q : — spent —		1221 A: No.
[17] A: The vast majority of my time was clinical.		[23] Q: What about the death certificate or [24]
[18] Q: Please let me furnish my question [19] because she'sgoing to have a problem if we both		autopsy? [25] A: What about it?
talk [20] at the same time.		Page 14
[21] My question is trying to get at whether [22] you had more of an administrative job or more of a [23] clinical job. And so the greater amount of your		[1] Q: Have you reviewed it in preparation for [2] this deposition?
time [24] was devoted to your clinical respon-		[3] A: No.
sibilities?		[4] Q: Have you since the filing of this case [5]
[25] A : Yes.		reviewed any of the actual echocardiograms done on [6] Charlotte Herbert?
Page 12		[7] A: No.
[1] Q: When did you leave Ohio?121 A: In June of '98.		[8] Q: Have you reviewed any deposition [9] tes-
[3] Q: And what was the reason that you left [4] your piactice in Ohio?		timony? 1101A: No.
[5] A : To assume the Chairmanship of the St. [6] Barnabas cardiac surgery program.		[11] Q: And since the filing of this case have [12] you discussed this case with any physicians?
[7] Q: Have your hospital privileges ever been [8] called into question, suspended or revoked?		[13] A : No. [14] Q: Other than with counsel have you [15]
[9] A: Never.		discussed this case with anyone else?
[10] Q: Now, Doctor, you've provided me with a		[16] A : No.
[11] copy of your curriculumvitae and there are a number [12] of publications that are listed on the		[17] Q: Do you have any personal notes or [18] personal file on this case?
curriculum [13] vitae.		[19] A: No.

r current practice do [3] st-cardiac surgery sternal nd infections can run [6] erficial, insignificant to [7] you — if you include all
st-cardiac surgery sternal nd infections can run [6] erficial, insignificant to [7] f you — if you include all
nd infections can run [6] erficial,insignificant to [7] f you — if you include all
erficial, insignificant to [7] f you — if you include all
lla very small portion. [9] woorthree certainly.[10]
rcent of the patients. ent practice do you do [12] bilateral mammary arter-
y how many in the last
that? nmaries?
rould be a guess but [19]
ly how many of those
reason why none of [24]
note my objection.
Page 18
ections are known to [3] mammaries and har-
endent diabetics. sulin-dependent [6] diab-
in those patients.
that a sternal wound [9]
teries used in revas- e treated aggressively to infection spread?
my objection.
the question?
ou read my question [16]
ack by the [18] reporter.)
ifection should be [20]
pon the clinical setting
ney should be treated [24] bening the wound, deb- for deep infection?
-
Page 19
tion. that that should be [3]
I was referring to a [5]
I mammary arteries. You t should be done all the

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[7] MS. CARULAS: Same objection. Go [8] ahead.	Lawyer's Notes	[13] Q: Fever?
[9] A: No. There's an entire spectrum of iioi		[14] A: That could be another sign.
presentation and of — and of degree and if you		[15] Q: Tachycardia?
would [11] be opening all these and treating them aggressively 1121 you'd be doing a great disservice		[16] A: That could be.
to the patients. 1131 Not every patient warrants that. [14] Q: Doctor, prior to Charlotte Herbert had [15]		[17] Q: Now, Doctor, you mentioned sternal [18] instability. Would you agree that sternal [19] instability is a late finding when the infection is
you personally diagnosed any patients with [16] post-cardiac surgery mediastinitis?		[20] well-advanced in mediastinitis?[21] A: Well, you can have mediastinitis without
[17] A : Yes.		[22] sternal instability.
[18] Q: Is that something that you saw — I [19] don't want to say regularly in your practice but it [20] wasn't something that was unusual?		[23] Q: I'maskingyouspecifically about [24] sternal instability and as to whether that is a late [25] finding when the mediastinitis is well-advanced?
[21] A: I've 20 years experience of doing 1221		Page 22
cardiac surgery and this is a known complication and [23] it occurs.		[1] A: It could be early, it could be late. It [2] runs a spectrum. Never presents the same way each [3]
[24] Q: Whatwouldbethe signs of post-cardiac [25] surgery sternal wound infection?		time. [4] Q: Is sternal instability present in most [5] cases
Page 20		of post-cardiac surgery mediastinitis? [6] A : I don't know if I can accurately answer [7]
[1] A : Redness, erythema, drainage from the [2] incision, fevers and chills.		[8] Q: In your practice in the times that [9] you've
[3] Q: What would be early signs of [4] pose-cardiac surgery mediastinitis?		seen post-cardiac surgery mediastinitis do [10] most of those cases have sternal instability?
[5] A: Early signs can be very genei-al.Could [6] be like anything — any infection like anything [7] bothering them. It could be just a sense of feeling [8] poorly. It could be a low grade temperature. It		[11] A: A lot do but I'mnot sure that most do.[12] It certainly is possible to have mediastinitis with a [13] perfectly stable sternum. Again, there's an entire [14] spectrum of presentation.
can [9] be very, very nonspecific. Again, these things run [10] the entire spectrum.		[15] Q: What causes the sternum to become [16] unstable in mediastinitis?
 [11] Q: Okay. And besides the genei-al symptoms [12] what are the next set of symptoms that you may see? [13] A: I'm not sure I follow where we go from [14] 		 [17] A: Well, what causes the sternum to become [18] unstable in any situation is a loosening of the [19] wires, a breaking of the wires or a giving away
one to the next here.		of [20] the tissue. 1211 Q: And in post-cardiac surgery [22] med-
[15] Q: I'mtrying to discern what the signs and [16] symptoms of post-cardiac surgery mediastinitis would [17] be.		iastinitis why does that occur in some instances? [23] A : Again, that can be a multi-factorial [24]
[18] You said initially early symptoms might [19] be just a general feeling of not — of feeling [20] poorly. Beyond that what other symptoms may		thing. Some people cough a lot and cough the [25] incision loose. Some situations there's infection in
you see [21] in that type of mediastinitis?		Page 23
1221 A: Well, again, they may run an entire [23]		[1] the tissue and the tissue gives $-$ gets loose.
spectrum from very minimal symptoms to in- stability of [24] the sternum and drainage from the incision.		[2] Q: Can osteomyelitis of the sternum cause [3] the sternum to become unstable in patients with [4] mediastinitis?
[25] Q: Would you see chest pain with it?		[si A : That would be one example of the tissue [6] giving way.
Page 21		[7] Q: Doctor, if you need to answer your pager —
[1] A : You may.		[8] A : I do.
[2] Q: Is that a common sign?		[9] \mathbf{Q} : — feel free to do so.
[3] A: It certainly can occur.[4] Q: You see bacteremia with it?		[10] THE WITNESS: I have to find another [11]
-		phone here.
 [5] A: Not necessarily. [6] Q: In some instances do you see bacteremia [7] 		[12] (Pause.)
with mediastinitis?		[13] MS. TOSTI: We all set?[14] THE WITNESS: (Indicates.)
[8] A: They can be combined.		[15] Q: How long after cardiac surgery does [16]
[9] Q: Leucocytosis?		mediastinitis usually present if a patient's going to
[10] A: That could be one of the signs.		[17] develop mediastinitis?
[11] Q: Pleural effusion?[12] A: That could be one of the signs.		[18] A: Ithink it'sunusual to see it while [19] they're still in the hospital and usually it occurs [20] after

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they'vebeen discharged home in the first few [21]	Lawyer's Notes	[25] A: It could be.
weeks after surgery. [22] Q: Would you agree that mediastinitis due [23]		Page 26
to gram positive organisms usually present some-		[1] Q: Use of mammary arteries?
what [24] later than infection caused by gram		[2] A: Media — mediastinitis can occur without [3]
negative [25] organisms?		the use of mammary arteries but we've already
Page 24		talked [4] about the increase of incidence in diabetics with [5] bilateral mammaries.
[1] A: You know, I'mnot sure that I know that [2]		[6] Q: Doctor, do post-operative wound [7] infec-
that's a fact.		tions occur more frequently in bypass patients [s]
[3] Q: How is mediastinitis diagnosed?		that are diabetic as compared to nondiabetic [9]
[4] A: Well, it depends upon its presentation.		patients?
[5] Q: Well, Doctor, I'd like for you to tell 161 me		[10] A : I think wounds occur more frequently in [11] diabetics, period.
what methods can be used in what situations to [7] diagnose mediastinitis and you can qualify that		[12] Q: Okay. My question is in regard to wound [13]
any [8] way you choose to.		infections after bypass surgery.
[9] A: Well, mediastinitis by definition is [10] in-		[14] A: Diabetes is an increased risk for wound [15]
fection of the mediastinal structures. It's a deep		infections. Insulin diabetics.
[11] wound infections oyou have to find some way to make [12] the diagnosis that the infection is		[16] Q: What about $-$ [17] A: I can't comment on $-$ I'm not sure it's[18]
indeed even below [13] the sternum. That is done		so clear with noninsulin or borderline diabetics.
by CT scan. Sonietimes [14] echoes help tell whether there's fluid around the [15] heart. It's		[19] Again, we get into the spectrum of pre-
sometimes done by probing the wound and [16]		sentation.
exploring the wound and seeing how deep it		[20] Q: What are the complications associated [21] with post-cardiac surgery mediastinitis?
goes.		[22] MS. CARULAS:Just note my objection.[23] I'm
[17] Q: You do a physical exam of the patient?		not sure I iinderstand the question but go ahead
[18] A : Yes.		[24] if you
[19] Q: Is that helpful?[20] A: (Witness indicates.)		[25] A: Well, complications can be again an
[21] Q: Are blood cultures helpful?		Page 27
[22] A : Blood culture would tell you whether or		[1] entire spectrum from sternal instability to prolonged [2] hospitalization on antibiotics that
[23] not there was a blood-borne infection but it		are treated [3] niedically to full-blown
would [24] not be a diagnosis of mecliastinitis.		endocarditis like this [4] patient had so just
[25] Q: Is needle aspiration helpful?		about anything is possible. [5] Q: Would it be fair to say that one of the [6]
Page 25		complications —
[1] A : It could be.		[7] MS. TOSTI: Bev, are you having a [8] problem
[2] Q: Have you ever utilized mediastinal [3] needle aspiration to assist in the diagnosis of [4] med-		hearing because this gadget is making a [9] whistling sound?
iastinitis?		[10] MS. HARRIS:I'm doing okay but you'll [11]
[5] A: I don't believe I ever have.		hear me if I can't,okay?
[6] Q: To your knowledge is mediastinal needle [7]		[12] MS. TOSTI: All right.
aspiration used by other cardiothoracic surgeons in [8] diagnosing post-cardiac surgery medias-		[13] Q: Doctor, would it be fair to say that one [14] of
tinitis?		the complications associated with this type of [15] post-operative mediastinitis would be extension
[9] MS. CARULAS: Objection.		of [16] infection into contiguous structures?
[10] A: I really can't comment on what other [11]		[17] A: That could be.
cardiac surgeons do and I'mnot aware of any [12] literature on needle aspiration.		[18] Q: Sternal osteomyelitis, is that also a [19]
[13] Q: What factors could increase the risk for [14]		complication of this type of mediastinitis? [20] A: That could be.
developing mediastinitis after cardiothoi-acic [15]		[20] A: That could be. [21] Q: Sepsis?
surgery?		[22] A : That could be.
[16] A : What factors would increase the risk. [17] The patient's preoperative status, nutrition, [18]		[23] Q: And you've mentioned the endocarditis.
hygiene, presence or absence of any infections,		[24] That also can be a complication?
[19] presence of co-morbidities such as diabetes or other [20] immune deficiencies, the surgical		[25] A: If you have blood-borne, that could be.
procedure itself, [21] the post-operative care and		Page 28
the home care.		[1] Q: Would you agree that when a diabetic [2]
[22] Q: The complexity of the surgery, is that a [23]		patient that has had both mammary arteries used
factor in regard to the risk for developing [24] mediastinitis?		for[3] revascularization surgery presents a couple weeks [4] after surgery with fever, severe in-

cisional pain, [5] elevated white blood count, that there should be a [6] high index of suspicion for mediastinitis?

[7] **MS**. CARULAS: Objection.

[8] **A:** Mediastinitis is in the differential [9] diagnosis for all patients that you see afterwards [10] that are having problems or complications.

[11] Q: Would you agree in the patient that I [12] just described, though, there should be a high [13] suspicion or a high index of suspicion for [14] mediastinitis because the mediastinitis can lead, to [15] such catastrophic complications?

[16] MS. CARULAS: Note my objection.

[17] A: I don't think your index of suspicion is [18] affected by the possible outcomes of that. Your [19] index of suspicion is simply that. It's not based

[1] A: Not necessarily. Again, there's a whole [2] spectrum of presentation and — and response to [3] treatments that occurs in mediastinitis.

[4] Q: I want to be sure that I'm understanding [5] what you're saying.

[6] You don't believe that the longer it [7] takes to treat mecliastinitis the less likely there's [8] going to be successful treatment? And correct me if [9] I'm misunderstanding what you're saying.

[10] **A:** Yeah. I think I'm very concerned that [11] you're putting words into my mouth here right now —

[12] Q: I want to make sure that I understand [13] what you're saying —

[14] A: Okay.

[15] Q: — and so please explain if I've [16] misinterpreted what you've said.

[17] A: Why don't you repeat the question [18] again?

[19] Q: Okay. The longer mediastinitis goes [20] untreated the less likely treatment will be [21] successful. Do you agree with that statement?

[22] MS. CARULAS: Objection.

[23] A: I think that that is a possibility but [24] it's not necessarily universally true. It depends [25] upon the organism, it depends upon the degree of

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[1] mediastinitis. It depends upon an entire variety of [2] variable factors.

[3] Q: Would you agree that the longer [4] mediastinitis goes untreated the more likely [5] complications will occur?

[6] **MS**. CARULAS: Objection.

[7] A: I'm sorry. Haven't I answered this [8] question?

[9] Q: I don't believe so, Doctor.

[10] **A:** Would you restate it then?

[11] MS. TOSTI: Would you repeat my [12] quest-

Lawyer's Notes	ion.
	[13] (Previous question read back by the [14] reporter.)
	[15] MS. CARULAS: Objection. That has been [16] asked and answered.
	[17] A: Would you rephrase that?I can'tanswer[18] it any betterthan I already have unless there's[19] something
	[20] Q: Doctor, is there a statistical [21] relationship between the length of time that [22] mediastinitis goes untreated and a direct [23] relationship with the seriousness and numbers of 1241 com- plications that occur? [25] MS. CARULAS: Objection.
	Page 31
	[1] A: I'm sorry. I find it very hard to [2] follow your — your thought here and there's an [3] entire spectrum and it depends upon the presentation, 141it depends upon the organism, it depends upon the [5] degree of involvement. I can't answer the question [6] any better than I already have.
	[7] Q: Does the mortality associated with [8] med- iastinitis increase as the length of time it takes [9] to initiate treatment increases?
	[10] MS. CARULAS: Objection. Same question [11] phrased slightly different.
	[12] A: I can'tanswer it any different than [13] what I already have.
	[14] Q: Doctor, what is the mortality rate for [15] cardiac surgery patients diagnosed and treated for [16] mediastinitis within a month of their cardiac [17] surgery?
	[18] A: Again, it depends on the degree of [19] mediastinitis but, you know, I wouldn't — I would [20] hesitate to give you an answer without referring to [21] the literature.
	[22] Q: Okay. I'm speaking overall for all [23] cases of post-cardiac surgery mediastinitis. Are you [24] able to tell me what the mortality rate is for [25] patients that are diagnosed and treated?
	Page 32
	[1] MS. CARULAS: Just note my objection. [2] Don't guess. If you have an answer to the question
	[3] A: I don' thave that number of [4] my head.
	 [5] Q: Would you agree that the administration [6] of antibiotics is an essential component of therapy [7] for post-cardiac surgery mediastinitis? [8] A: Yes.
	[9] Q: Would you agree that the longer the [10] treatment of mediastinitis is delayed the greater the [11] chance that infection will spread to other parts of 1121 the body?
	[13] MS. CARULAS: Objection. Asked and [14] an- swered. <i>Go</i> ahead.
	[15] A: It's the Same question and I'm going to [16] give you the same answer.
	[17] Q: Would you repeat your answer to the [18] question then?
	 [19] A: Repeat your question. [20] MS.TOSTI: Would you please reread my [21]

[22] (Previous question read back by the [23 reporter.)

[24] THE WITNESS: Can I ask you to read my [25 answer to her?

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Lawyer's Notes

[1] **A:** It depencts upon the organism. It [2] depends upon the degree and it depends upon the [3 presentation. It depends upon the patient, the [4 co-morbidities, the immune factors. It depends upon [5] a variety of situations. I cannot sit here and say [6] definitely that, yes, this is right or that is wrong [7] and I will not.

[8] **Q**: Doctor, if -

[9] **MS. TOSTI:** Bev, we're getting a [10] whistling. 1 don'tknow if you can hear it on your [11] end.

[12] **MS. CARULAS:** We'lljust have to live [13] with it I think.

[14] **MS. TOSTI:** Is she still there, though? [15] Bev are you still there?

[16] MS. CARULAS: Hello?

[17] (Pause.)

[18] **BY MS.** TOSTI:

[19] **Q:** If mediastinitis is suspected is [20] antibiotic therapy covering the most common pathogens [21] usually started immediately after blood cultures?

1221 A: If I suspected it, yes.

[23] Q: And then once the blood cultures are [24] clone and a specific infecting organism is identified [25] then the antibiotic therapy is tailored to that

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[1] specific type of infection, correct?

[2] **A:** Yes.

[3] Q: Doctor, if a patient has mediastinitis [4][4] following cardiac surgery should that patient be[5] hospitalized for treatment?

[6] **A:** It depends upon the severity.

[7] Q: Okay. Are there some instances —

[si **A**: It depends on what you mean when you're [9] defining mediastinitis.

[10] Q: Well, give me your definition of [11] mediastinitis.

1121 **A:** Mediastinitis can run a spectrum of [13] disease from very mild to very severe and I have [14] certainly treated patients with deep wound infections [15] at home with dressing changes.

[16] Q: So in some instances patients with [17] postcardiac surgery mediastinitis will not require [18] hospitalizations and can be treated at home?

[19] **A:** Post-operative wound infections run an [20] entire spectrum.

[21] Q: And I'm just asking you if there's some 1221 instances that they don't require hospitalization and [23] they can be managed at home?

[24] A: It — it's very logical that at some [25] point in the management of these patients with

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[1] mediastinitis very early before the entire

course of [2] it has been defined or afterwards, after the course [3] has been contained that home care can be done for [4] them, yes.

[5] Q: Okay. How about initially when they are [6] first diagnosed with mediastinitis? Are there some 71 gronps of patients with post-cardiac surgery [8] mediastinitis that will not require hospitalization [9] for their initial treatment?

[10] **A:** Well, it depends upon the presentation [11] and you don'tknow when these patients present what [12] the extent of it is and you have to sometimes wait [13] for things to declare themselves.

[14] Q: In a patient that'sbeen diagnosed with [15] mediastinitis are there some patients that can be [16] cared for at home without having to hospitalize them?

[17] **A:** Well, I would — I assume that there [18] could be but this is such a rhetorical question that [19] I find it very difficult to give any — you're asking [20] a vague question and want a concrete answer from the.

[21] Q: All right.

[22] **A**: I find this line of questioning very [23] difficult.

[24] **Q**: Okay, Doctor. Let'stake your [25] piactice.

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(1) Have you had patients that have [2] developed post-cardiac surgery mediastinitis that you [3] have cared for at home that did not require [4] hospitalization for initial treatment?

[5] **A:** I'm sorry. I'm very uncomfonable here [6] because we're talking in such vague — I mean, I can [7] be so misunderstood by any answer that I give here [8] with this line of questioning that I — [9] **MS.TOSTI:** I would prefer that you not [10]

motion to him as to any type of an answer.

[11] Q: And I would prefer that you give your [12] answer to me directly.

[13] **A:** I'm giving my answer to you.

[14] Q: Okay. Now, please explain youranswer [15] any way that you feel comfortable with, Doctor.

[16] **A**: I feel comfortable by saying that [17] postoperative coronary artery mediastinitis can [18] present in a spectrum of presentation depending upon [19] as we've said before the organism, the extent, the 1201 stage at which it is in development; that depending [21] upon when it is seen at the time that it is seen and [22] the way that it is presented that there is different [23] ways that it can be treated successfully. That may [24] include local drainage procedures, I&Ds, it may [25] include antibiotics, it may include observation, it

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n may include hospitalization and IV antibiotics and it [2] may ultimately include debridement of the wound.

3] Q: I'm going to ask my question again, [4] Doctor.

5) In your piactice have you had patients [6] that you have diagnosed with mediastinitis that have 7] not required hospitalization and that you have 8] treated at home?

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[9] A: I have —	Lawyer's Notes	[14] Q: Is it seen frequently with [15] mediastinitis?
[10] Q: And I'm speaking —		[16] A: It may be.
[11] A: — answered —		[17] Q: Is it seen in most cases?
 [12] Q: — of the post-cardiac mediastinitis. [13] A: And I have answered that question to the 		[18] A: It depends upon the degree of [19] med- iastinitis. It certainly can be one thing. All [20]
[14] best of my ability and can give nootheranswer than [15] what I have.		mediastinitis does not have bacteremia.[21] Q: In the majority of cases of [22] mediastinitis
[16] Q: I'm asking you for a yes or no. [17] Have you had patients that you have [18] diagnosed with		do you see bacteremia? [23] MS. CARULAS: Objection.
post-cardiac surgery mediastinitis [19] that you		[24] A: I can'tanswerthat question now. I[25] don't
have not hospitalized and have treated them [20] at home? And I would ask that you either answer		know the answer to that question now.
that [21] yes or no and give whatever explanation you like.		Page 40
		[1] Q: If a patient has bacteremia which you [2] said
[22] MS. CARULAS: Just note my objection. [23] He does not have to answer it either yes or no. I [24] think he's answered —		is bacteria in the blood the bacteria can attach [3] to other organs, colonize and form a new site of 141 infection, correct?
[25] MS. TOSTI: I don'tthink he has		[5] A: Yes.
Page 38		[6] Q: What does the term "sepsis" mean?
[1] answered the question.		[7] A: Means infection from the bacteria in the [8] bloodstream.
[2] A: I don't think that there's any rule in [3] the deposition that says that I must answer yes or no		[9] Q: What is acute bacterial endocarditis?
[4] and I believe that I have fully explained the [5] treatment of mediastinitis to you.		[10] A: It's an infection of the endocardium of [11] the heart. Did you say bacterial?
[6] Q: Doctor, I'm asking in your practice [7]		[12] Q: Yes.
whether you have had any patients that you have [8] treated at home for post-cardiac surgery [9] mediastinitis and have not hospitalized them?		[13] A: In that case it's by bacteria and it [14] most frequently involves the valves.
[10] A : I answered that.		[15] Q: And if a post-cardiac surgery patient [16]
[11] Q: You haven't answered it. Have you had [12] any?		develops bacteremia can that caiise acute bac- terial [17] endocarditis to develop?
[13] THE WITNESS : Would you read my answer		[18] A: I've only seen it once in my lifetime.
[14] back?[15] Q: I'm asking have you had any patients? [16]		[19] Q: And was that one time in this case with [20] Charlotte Herbert?
To me that's a yes or a no. Yes, I have . No, I have [17]		[21] A: Yes.
not.		[22] Q : Otherthan Charlotte Herbert have you [23] seen any other patients who have developed
[18] A: I said yes in that answer.[19] Q: Okay.		acute [24] bacterial endocarditis after having bypass surgery?
[20] A: That in the spectrum of these —		[25] A: I'm sure that I must have.
[21] Q: Is your answer —		
1221 A: Excuse me.		Page 41
[23] Q: Is your answer yes?		[1] Q: Would you agree that mediastinitis after [2] bypass surgery would increase the risk for
[24] A : In that spectrum patients are treated [25] depending upon their presentation, depending upon the		developing [3] acute bacterial endocarditis — Or let me rephrase [4] that — would be a risk factor for developing acute [5] bacterial endocarditis?
Page 39		[6] A: Would mediastinitis be a risk factor for [7] endocarditis? Is that the question?
[1] degree and some of that treatment has occurred at [2] home both pre- and post-		[sl Q: Yes. After bypass?
hospitalization,		[9] A: It could be one of them I suppose.
[3] Q: And you did not —		[10] Q: Would you agree that if a bypass patient [11]
 [4] A: Yes. [5] Q: — listen to my question, Doctor, [6] because my question was once the diagnosis was made [7] 		develops mediastinitis that the infection should be 1121 treated promptly to decrease the risk of the [13] infection spreading?
have you treated the patient at home and they		[14] A : Yes.
have [8] not required hospitalization?		[15] Q : And would you agree that the sooner [16]
[9] A: I'm sorry. I cannot give you a better [10] answer than what I already have.		acute bacterial endocarditis is treated with [17] antibiotics the more likely treatment will be [18]
[11] Q: Doctor, what is bacteremia?		successful? [19] MS. CARULAS: Objection.
[12] A : Bacteremia is bacteria in the [13] blood-stream.		[19] MS. CAROLAS. Objection. [20] A: We've answered that question.
outum,		

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 [21] Q: This is in regard to acute bacterial [22] endocarditis,Doctor,notmediastinitis,andIdon't [23] believe I've asked that question before. [24] A: That's my mistake. [25] MS. CARULAS: Objection. 	Lawyer's Notes	 [2] A: You know, that depends upon the patient [3] populations you're talking about but staph is a very [4] common organism — organism in endocarditis. [5] Q: Well, we're talking about post-cardiac [6]
Page 42		surgery patients.
[1] A: Ask the question again.		 [7] A: Well, that's a common organism. [8] Q: Is Staph aureus also a common cause of [9]
[2] Q : The sooner acute bacterial endocarditis [3] is treated with antibiotics the more likely the [4]		post-cardiac surgery mediastinitis? [10] A: It's a common organism that causes [11]
treatment will be successful? [5] MS. CARULAS: Objection.		mediastinitis, yes.
[6] A: Again, that would depend upon the [7]		[12] Q: And how is bacterial endocarditis [13] treated?
virility of the organism, the status of the patient, [8] the antibiotics used. And I refer again to the whole [9] spectrum of treatment. [10] Q: I want to make sure I understand your [11]		[14] A: Recognized cases of endocarditis are [15] treated with appropriate antibiotics depending upon [16] the blood cultures and the sensitivities of the [17] organism and if that's not successful surgery is [18] oftentimes used.
answer here. [12] My question was in regard to the [13] treatment of bacterial endocarditis with antibiotics [14] so		[19] Q: And in regard to surgeryare you talking [20] about valve replacement?
what I' maskingyouisthetime delaybetweenthe [15] time that the patient has acute bacterial [16] endocarditis and the initiation of antibiotics. You [17] don't think that that time period makes a difference [18] as to whether or not the treatment will be [19] successful?		[21] A: Valve replacement. Kepair is less [22] com- monin endocarditis. It depends upon — on what – [23] where along the spectrum of the disease that you're [24] treating the patient, whether you've been able to [25] heal the endocarditis with antibiotics, whether it's
[20] A : That may be a factor. I'm saying that [21] there are a lot of other factors involved also.		Page 45
[22] Q: That's one factor, though?		[1] an active infection so there's no — there's no one [2] answer for it.
[23] A: It may be a factor.		[3] Q: Under what circumstances would surgical
[24] Q: How is acute bacterial endocarditis [25] diagnosed?		[4] valve replacement be required in apatient that has [5] had bacterial endocarditis? What would be the [6] deciding factors that would cause the
Page 43		decision to be [7] made to replace the valve?
 [1] A: Bacterial endocarditis can be diagnosed [2] by an index of suspicion with fevers and chills, with [3] splinter hemorrhages, from emboli, from sometimes [4] even bleeding. The objective evidence of it is [5] usually an echocardiogram that shows an infected or [6] vegetations on the valve. 171 Q: Do you use blood cultures in the 181 diag- 		[8] A : Well, if the valve was — was failing [9] functionally, if there was avegetation that was ata [10] high risk for embolizing or even if the valve had [11] been treated and the endocarclitis was resolved but it [12] was left with a deformed valve and it was causing [13] problems, these would be some of the indications for [14] surgery.
 nosis of acute bacterial endocarditis? [9] A: Yes. [10] Q: Is the presence or absence of a murmur [11] 		[15] Q: Do you have an independent recollection [16] of Charlotte Herbert as you sit here today? Aside [17] from what you've read in the medical
of any significance in the diagnosis of acute [12] bacterial endocarditis?		records in your [18] review — [19] A: I remember —
[13] A: It may be or it may not be.		[19] A. Fremenber $-$ [20] Q: — do you recall her?
[14] Q: If it's a new murmur is that something [15] that's significant?		[21] A: I remember her, sure,.
[16] A: A new onset murmur would be a concern.		[22] Q: Now, in August of 1995 did you have any [23] type of a professional association with Dr.
[17] Q: What are the complications associated [18] with acute bacterial endocarditis?		Mikhail? [24] Was he a member of the Cleveland Clinic staff?
[19] A: It canruna spectrum from very minimal [20]		[25] A: He was.
complications to severe life-threatening [21] com- plications.		Page 46
[22] Q: And what would those be?		[1] Q: And did he hold any clinical position or [2]
[23] A : Congestive heart failure, renal [24] insufficiency, pulmonary edema, septic emboli.		title with Cleveland Clinic that was senior to yours?
[25] Q: Would you agree that the leading cause		[3] A: No.
Page 44		[4] Q : How is it that Charlotte Herbert came [5] under your care?
[1] of acute bacterial endocarditis is Staph		[6] A: I believe I was on call the weekend that [7]

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[8] Q: And if you could just tell me how the [9] on	Lawyer's Notes	[14] A: Not that I'm aware of.
call system was working at that time. In other [10 words, were you on call for only Dr. Mikhail or were [11] you on call for several people? Were you working 112] just on the night shift?		[15] Q: Did you see her at all when she was [16] hospitalized for her bypass surgery that you recall?
[13] A: I was on call for the cardiac surgery [14]		[17] A: It's quite likely that I did but I don't [18] recall.
[15] Q: When you took —		[19] Q: Would that be on rounds covering for Dr. [20] Mikhail?
[16] A: For the practice.		[20] Withian? [21] A: That's a possibility.
[17] Q: Okay. And how many cardiac surgeons [18] were you covering for?		 [21] A. That's a possibility. [22] Q: But you didn'tatanytime care for her [23] as your patient?
[19] A: Two.		[24] A : No.
[20] Q: And who were they?		[25] Q: When she presented to the emergency
[21] A: Dr. Saltus and Dr. Mikhail.		room
[22] Q: And when you were taking call how long a[23] period of time were you taking call?		Page 49
[24] A: I don't recall.[25] Q: Generally-speaking did you do it for the		[1] on August 20th how were you notified that she was [2] there?
Page 47		[3] A: I don't recall the specifics. I'm sure [4] I was paged.
[1] whole weekend or just on the night shift?		[5] Q : Did you speak to anyone from the [6]
121 A: No, it woddn' tbe just the night shift [3] and it was likely the whole weekend.		emergency room when you received the page? Did you [7] call them back?
[4] Q: Did you trade-off with Dr. Saltus and [5] Dr Mikhail on weekends to take call?		[s] A : Well, I assume that I did but I don't [9] recall any details of that.
[6] A : Yes.		[10] Q : Do you recall if you talked to the [11] emergency room physician or one of the nurses?
[7] Q: Among the three of you?		[12] A: I don't recall.
[8] A : Yes. [9] Q: Dr. Mikhail was $-$ I'm not sure if I'm [10]		[13] Q: Do you recall what you were told about [14] Charlotte Herbert?
pronouncing his name correctly. Is it Mikhail?		[15] A: I do not.
12] Q: Mikhail?		[16] Q: Where were you when you received the [17] page?
[13] A : (Witness indicates.)		[18] A: I don't recall.
[14] Q: Dr. Mikhail was out of town. Do you [15] know when he left to go out of town?		[19] Q: Do you know whether you were in the [20] hospital or outside the hospital?
[16] A: No, I don't.		$[21] \mathbf{A:} \mathbf{I} \text{ don't know.}$
[17] Q: Prior to tlie time that he left did he [18] discuss Charlotte Herbert with you at anytime —		[22] Q: Did you go to the emergency room to see [23] Charlotte Herbert on August 20th of '95?
[19] A : No.		[24] A : Yes.
[20] Q: — prior to the emergency visit on [21] August 20th?		[25] Q: And what was the reason that you decided
[22] A : No.		Page 50
1231 Q: And clid you consult with Dr. Mikhail at [24] any time about Charlotte Herbert on August 20th		[1] to go to the emergency room to see her?[2] A: Because I was paged.
when [25] she was seen in the emergency room?		[3] Q: Okay.But, Doctor, I would assume that [4] it's your decision as to whether you go there or you
[1] A: No.		[5] answer a question or whatever and I'm trying
[2] Q: Did you consult with Dr. Mikhail at any [3] time prior to his return to town when she was in		to [6] understand why it was that you went to the hospital [7] to see her as opposed to speaking with someone over [8] the phone about her?
the [4] hospital?		[9] A: I see all of our patients that come in [10] to be
5] A : No.		seen.
6] Q: Now, prior to August 20th which was the [7]		[11] Q: Okay.
date that she was seen in the emergency room had you [s] seen Charlotte Herbert as a patient?		[12] A: They
9] A: I don'trecall.		[13] Q: Go ahead. [14] So if the emergency room
^[10] Q: Anclafterthetime that — let me back [11] up		pages you you [15] would routinely go and see the patient if one of them [16] had presented to the emergency room?
on that.		

[26] (2. Do you know what time you saw Charlotte[11] Herbert in the emergency room record and is a portion $[21]$ Herber in the emergency room record and is a portion[11] the emergency room record and is a portion $[22]$ A: It was early morning. $[23]$ A: Was anyone with Charlotte Herbert when $[23]$ Q: Was anyone with Charlotte Herbert when $[24]$ O. Kay, Could youtell me what portion is its $[24]$ O. Say way conversations with that (3) $[26]$ C. Day ou recall the content of any of 16 those $[21]$ C. Day ou recall the content of any of 16 those $[27]$ A: Yes, I dia. $[23]$ C. Yes, Jour recall the content of any of 16 those $[27]$ A: I don' tremember the specifies of it, all We table addown thing? $[23]$ A: Yes, I dia. $[23]$ A: Yes, I dia. $[24]$ C. Yes, Jour decall? $[27]$ A: I don' tremember the specifies of it, all We table addown the was having table to give you itil any bistor? $[23]$ A: Yes, I $[26]$ A: Charlotte Herbertable to give you itil any bistor? $[24]$ A: Yes. $[26]$ A: Charlotte Herbertable to give you itil any bistor? $[26]$ A: La metral inferentiation did she give 190 poordy, (if) she hurt, she was having bad mause and vomitting of nause and yonitting earlier that inghtrajotcynoknow, during the night and the morning. $[29]$ A: Can I look at the record, at the -1 page 52 $[20]$ C. May were you aware that she was diabetic? $[20]$ C. May were you aware that she was diabetic? $[20]$ C. May were you aware that shew diabetic? $[20]$ C. May were you aware that shew diabetic? $[20]$ C. May were you aware that shew diabetic? $[20]$ C. May were you aware	Аргіі 0, 1999		
 (a) Herbeit in the emergency room? (a) Karbeit in the emergency room? (a) Karbeit in the emergency room? (b) Karbeit in the emergency room? (c) Karbeit in the transmark in the formation. (c) Karbeit in the emergency room record and, yes, 1 don't treat the stable to give you find that in your handwriting? (c) Karbeit in the emergency room record and, yes, 1 don't know, the was diabetic? (c) Li don't know if the was that she was diabetic? (c) Li don't know if the was that she was diabetic? (c) Li don't know if the was that she know diabetic? (c) A don't know if the was that she know diabetic? (c) A don't know if the was that she know diabetic? (c) A don't know if the was that she know diabetic? (c) A don't know if the was that she know diabetic? (c) A don't know if the was that she know diabetic?<!--</th--><th>[19] the patients.</th><th>Lawyer's Notes</th><th>Page 53</th>	[19] the patients.	Lawyer's Notes	Page 53
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 debilitated [11] with pain. (12] Q: And were you aware that she had had [4] bilateral mammary artery implantations during her [5] revascularization? (6] A: I don'tknow if I knew that specifically [7] at that time or not. (8] Q: Did you request to have her old chart [9] brought to the emergency room from her bypass [10] surgery? (11] A: I don'trecall. (12] Q: If you requested that's something that [13] you can do is have the old chart broughtto the [14] emergency room, correct? (12] Q: Inthe provide the emergency room and the emergenc	Page 52		dramatic about everything but she seemed to be
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 she [14] could not lift her head up. Did you n any problem [15] with her being able to lift 1 head up when you saw [16] her? [8] Q: Did you request to have her old chart [9] brought to the emergency room from her bypass [10] surgery? [11] A: I don't recall. [12] Q: If you requested that's something that [13] you can do is have the old chart broughtto the [14] emergency room, correct? [12] Q: Mathematical distribution of the emergency room the emergency room the emergency room from her provided the set of the provided the emergency room to be save the old chart broughtto the [14] [12] Q: Mathematical distribution of the emergency room to be save the old chart broughtto the [14] [13] A: Yes. [14] A: I don't recall. [15] A: Yes. [15] A: Yes. [16] A: Yes. [17] A: Yes. [18] A: Yes. [19] A: Yes. [11] A: Yes. [12] A: Yes. [13] A: Yes. [14] A: Yes. [15] A: Yes. [15] A: Yes. [16] A: Yes. [17] A: Yes. [18] A: Yes. [19] A: Yes. [19] A: Yes. [19] A: Yes. [10] A: Yes. [11] A: Yes. [12] A: Yes. [12] A: Yes. [13] A: Yes. [14] A: Yes. [15] A: Yes. [15] A: Yes. [16] A: Yes. [17] A: Yes. [18] A: Yes. [19] A: Yes. [19] A: Yes. [19] A: Yes. [10] A: Yes. [11] A: Yes. [12] A: Yes. [12] A: Yes. [13] A: Yes. [14] A: Yes. [15] A: Yes. [15] A: Yes. [16] A: Yes. [17] A: Yes. [18] A: Yes. [19] A: Yes. [19] A: Yes. [19] A: Yes. [10] A: Yes. [11] A: Yes. [12] A: Ye			
 [6] A: I don'tknow if I knew that specifically [7] at that time or not. [8] Q: Did you request to have her old chart [9] brought to the emergency room from her bypass [10] surgery? [11] A: I don'trecall. [12] Q: If you requested that's something that [13] you can do is have the old chart brought to the [14] emergency room, correct? [14] A: I don't recall. [15] A: Yes. [16] A: Yes. [17] A: Yes. [18] Q: I think the emergency room note says that she was dizzy and nauseated. Was that consistent with your findings? [17] A: Yes. [18] Q: I think the emergency room note says that she was dizzy and nauseated. Was that consistent with your findings? [18] A: I don't recall. [19] Q: If you requested that's something that [13] you can do is have the old chart brought to the [14] emergency room, correct? 			she [14] could not lift her head up. Did you note
 [8] Q: I think the emergency room note says that she was dizzy and nauseated. Was that consistent with your findings? [11] A: I don'trecall. [12] Q: If you requested that's something that [13] you can do is have the old chart brought to the [14] emergency room, correct? [13] Q: I think the emergency room note says that she was dizzy and nauseated. Was that consistent with your findings? [21] A: Yes. [22] Q: And I believe there's a set of blood [23] gat also that are recorded in the emergency room type written note. 			head up when you saw [16] her?
 (10] surgery? (11] A: I don'trecall. (12] Q: If you requested that's something that [13] you can do is have the old chart brought to the [14] emergency room, correct? (11] A: I don't recall. (12] Q: If you requested that's something that [13] you can do is have the old chart brought to the [14] emergency room, correct? (12] Q: And I believe there's a set of blood [23] gather also that are recorded in the emergency room typewritten note. 			
[12] Q: If you requested that's something that [13] you can do is have the old chart broughtto the [14] emergency room, correct? [21] A: Yes. [22] Q: And I believe there's <i>a</i> set of blood [23] gas also that are recorded in the emergency room typewritten note	[10] surgery?		that she was dizzy and nauseated. Was that [20]
you can do is have the old chart brought to the [14] emergency room, correct?			[21] A: Yes.
typewritten note.	you can do is have the old chart broughtto the [14]		[22] Q: And I believe there's <i>a</i> set of blood [23] gases also that are recorded in the emergency room [24] two written note
[15] A: Yes. [25] Did you find that there was any	[15] A: Yes.		••
[16] Q: Did you do a physical examination when			Page 55
$(1, 4, \dots, 4)$			[1] deviations from normal in the blood gases
examination?	examination?		that are [2] recorded there? Did you have those available to you, [3] first off, when you saw her?
[21] A : I didn't find any signs of a deep [22] sternal wound infection Lyperta in my note that she [22]			
wound infection. I wrote in my note that she [23] had a glucose of 281 but it was drawn after an IV [24] with 5 percent dextrose was started. [5] Q: Okay. And looking at those blood gases are there any deviations from normal for this patient?	had a glucose of 281 but it was drawn after an IV		[5] Q: Okay. And looking at those blood gases [6] are there any deviations from normal for this [7] patient?
	*		[8] A: Well, this says she'sslightly [9] alkalotic. The

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Ph is 75. PO 2 is 76. [10] Q: Are those abnormal blood gases for this [11] patient?	Lawyer's Notes	you [15] would elaborate on what was within your differential [16] diagnosis at the time that you saw her in the [17] emergency room.
[12] A: I wouldn't be too concerned about it.		[18] A: Well, any patient that I see and [19] spec- ifically —
[13] Q: What was within your differential [14] diagnosis when you saw her?		[20] Q: Doctor —
[15] MS. CARULAS: Note my objection to the [16]		[21] MS. CARULAS: Let him —
term "differential diagnosis."		1221 Q: — specifically Charlotte Herbert.
[17] A: The differential diagnosis in anyone [18] post-operatively —		[23] MS . CARULAS:Let him answer the [24] quest- ion.
[19] Q: Well, Doctor, my question is [20] specifically for Charlotte Herbert. I want to know [21] what		[25] A: I was saying specifically when I was
was within your differential diagnosis?		Page 58
[22] A: Then the differential diagnosis was [23] gastrointestinal problems. We looked at the		[1] interrupted. [2] I looked at her. 1 assessed her wounds [3] so
incision [24] and I did not think that there was signs		wound infection was in the differential [4] diag-
of a serious [25] wound infection at that point. Talked to her and her —		nosis. I listened to her lungs, I listened to [5] her
		heart. That was in the differential diagnosis. [6] I poked on her stomach and talked to her and tried
Page 56 [1] whoever was with her at the time and the		to [7] assess the GI thing so all of those things were
main thing [2] she was complaining about was		in [8] the differential diagnosis.
the epigastric [3] distress, the nausea and vomiting that she had. She [4] had had it before		[9] Q : Doctor, how do you define differential [10] diagnosis? What's your definition of differential?
in the hospital. She was on [5] medications that		[11] A: The realm of possibility. Given the [12] signs
could possibly cause that, [6] specifically the		and symptoms what are the possibilities [13]
aspirin and the Darvocet, and so we [7] stopped those irritants, gave her some antacids and [8]		something could be happening and within that [14] differential diagnosis you pick the most likely
asked to observe — asked her to observe the		that [15] appears at that given point in time given
clinical [9] course and to check her temperature.		the [16] patient's presentation, and I felt at that time given [17] her past history, her presentation at
100 Q: So getting back to the differential [11]		that point that [18] the GI was the most likely cause
diagnosis, you mentioned GI problems. Was there [12] anything else within your differential diag-		of her problems and [19] elected to watch for the others but to treat that at [20] the present time.
nosis? [13] MS. CARULAS: Note my objection. I [14] bel-		[21] Q: You disagree then with what Dr. Adelman [22] has included in his emergency room note that:
ieve he's answered what his impression was at the [15] time.		this was 1231 a probable wound infection and possible [24] mediastinitis. Is that correct?
[16] Q: I'mgoing to ask you to please continue [17]		[25] A: The probable, yes, I disagree with. The
with your answer. Other than gastrointestinal [18] problems was there anything else within your [19]		Page 59
differential diagnosis, Doctor?		[1] possible mediastinitis, anything is possible.
[20] MS. CARULAS: Objection. Go ahead.		[2] Q: Did she have any signs or symptoms or Blab results that would be consistent with [4] med-
[21] A: I agree with my counsel. I believe I've 1221		iastinitis at the time that you saw her in the [5]
answered the question; that I looked at the wound, I [23] did not feel at that time that there was		emergency room?
evidence of [24] a serious wound infection and my		[6] A: I found nothing specific to mediastinitis.
differential [25] diagnosis at that time was basically surrounding the		[7] Q: My question was signs and symptoms and [8] lab results that would be consistent with [9] mediastinitis, Doctor.
Page 57		[10] MS. CARULAS: Objection.
[1] GI tract because of her previous history and because [2] of her presentation		[11] A: In an ill patient there's a spectrum of [12]
 because [2] of her presentation. [3] Q: Doctor, if you need to answer your page — 		possibilities and there are labs and things that we
[4] A: No.We can keep going.		[13] do that are general. She had white blood cell counts [14] that was elevated and she had a
[5] Q: So — and please correct me if I've [6]		temperature and there [15] is a multitude of things
misunderstood you but at the time that you saw		which could cause that and [16] certainly the possibility of wound infection and [17] med-
her in [7] the emergency room you did not have sternal wound [slinfection or mediastinitis within]		iastinitis was considered at that point.
your differential [9] diagnosis?		[18] Q: Was she having any kind of pain in the [19]
[10] A: Oh, no. It certainly was within the [11] differential diagnosis.		incision at the time that you saw her?[20] A: She was complaining of pain in the lower
[12] Q: Well, Doctor, that's what I was asking [13] you.I asked you specifically and the only thing [14]		[21] portion of the incision.[22] Q: Did she have any sternal instability at [23]

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Craig Saunders, M.D. April 6, 1999		Dabulewicz v The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
[24] A: I don't believe so. [25] Q: Is that something that you checked?	Lawyer's Notes	infections [6] with mediastinitis. [7] Q: If a patient with mediastinitis has a [8] retroperitoneal extension do they have acute [9]
Page 60		abdominal signs and symptoms?
[2] Q: Did Charlotte Herbert have any risk [3] Factors for mediastinitis when you saw her on August [4] 20th?		 [10] A: I've never seen a retroperitoneal [11] extension of mediastinitis. [12] Q: Now, she had a white blood cell count of [13] 16,900when she was in the emergency room
 [5] MS. CARULAS: Note my objection. [6] A: We've been through the risk factors of [7] mediastinitis and I believe I've answered that [8] 		correct? [14] A: Where is that?I'dhave to look at the [15] lab tests. I have 16,000written on my —
question. [9] Q: Doctor, you have not answered it in [10] regard to Charlotte Herbert and I'masking you [11] specifically on August 20th in the emergency room did 1121 Charlotte Herbert have any risk factors for [13] mediastinitis? [14] A: Charlotte Herbert had open heart surgery		 [16] Q: Okay. [17] A: — on my note but I will spot you the 900 [18] Q: Okay. Is there any reason why you chose [19] not to order blood cultures at that time knowing that [20] this patient had had recent bypass surgery? Is there [21] any reason? Is that something you considered and you chose not the
 [15] and she was a risk for having mediastinitis. She had [16] noninsulin-dependent diabetes of some degree which [17] may increase the risk for wound infections and [18] mediastinitis. [19] Q: She also had bilateral internal mammary [20] artery implants with her revascularization and 		something you considered and 1221 chose not to do? [23] A: I'm not sure how I — how to answer that [24] question except to say that given her pre- sentation [25] and my experience and the way that the wound looked
that [21] would be a factor also, wouldn't it? [22] A: The — whetheror not bilateral internal [23] mammaries and noninsulin diabetes is a risk Factor [24] I'm not sure of.		Page 63 [1] and so forth I felt at that point in time that it [2] looked more like a gastrointestinal issue than -[3] than a full-blown sepsis and mediastinitis.
[25] Q : Now, did you give any consideration to Page 61		[4] Q: She was febrile at the time that you saw [5 her and also had an elevated white blood cell count.
 [1] admitting Charlotte Herbert when you saw her in the [2] emergency room? [3] A: I did. 		[6] A: Yes.[7] Q: Shouldn'tthat raise an index of [8] suspicior for infection?
[4] Q: Okay. And what was the basis for your [5] decision nor to admit her at that time?		[9] A: Yes. [10] Q: Okay. In a patient that has had recent [11]
[6] A: I talked — I examined her, I talked [7] with her and thefamily Iasked — Idon' trememberrsi the specific words that were used. We talk to them — [9] I talked to them and I felt that this was		bypass surgery with an index of suspicion for [12 infection wouldn't a reasonably prudent phys- ician [13] order blood cultures for the patient? [14] MS. CARULAS:Objection.
something [10] that could be obsei-ved, that we wanted to keep track [111 of it. That's why I wanted to check with them in the [12] morning but it was my judgment at that time that it [13] was not necessarily something that she would have to [14] be admitted to the hospital for. [15] At that particular point in time, the [16] particular presentation that she had, my im-		[15] A: All I can say is that I looked at this [16] patient and given the presentation at the time you [17] know, I chose to treat her in this manner.] thought [18] it was prudent to follow this and ec watch this but I [19] did not — you know, the record's clear that I did [20] not order blood cultures. I do not order blood [21] cultures on
pression [17] was that she had some gastroin- testinal process that [18] was causing her nausea and vomiting and the [19] discomfort in her epigastrium. I discussed it with 1201 them. I		 every post-op patient that has a [22] temperature. 23] Q: And a white blood cell count over 16,000? 24] A: A white blood cell count is elevated. [25] There are other things that can do that and it's not
suggested that we take away the medications [21] that could possibly be irritating that, give her		Page 64
some [22] antacids that could possibly relieve that and to [23] observe farther, see what the results of that [24] treatment would be and what the clinical course would [25] be.		 necessarily mediastinitis. Q: What other things in Charlotte Herbert's^[3] case do you think was causing her white blood cell ^[4] count to be that level?
Page 62		5] A: Let's go back to the spectrum of [6] pos- sibilities.Anything is possible.
 (1) Q. Doctor, can't inclusting sometimes (2) cause epigastric-type pain? (3) A: Anything's possible. In my experience, [4] however, nausea, vomiting, an epigastric pain is not [5] a presenting hctor of people with wound 		 7] Q: I'd like to know in this case. 81MS. CARULAS: He's answering your [9] question, Jeanne. 10] Q: When you evaluated her —

[11] A: Yes.	Lawyer's Notes	[16] A: That's right.
 [11] A. Tes. [12] Q: — you were aware of the clinical data [13] 	Lawyer S Noles	
that she had a white blood cell count over 16,000		[17] Q: Okay. And what did you tell Charlotte [18] Herbert in regard to what was going on when you
[14] you were aware that she was running a		saw[19] herin the eniergencyroom?What was the
temperature and [15] I would like to know what		information [20] that you provided to her?
you thought was causing the [16] elevated tem- perature as well as the elevation in the [17] white		[21] A: Well, specifics are difficult for me to [22]
blood cell count.		recall but I — any patient like this I would have [23]
[18] A : Yes. And — and I think I answered that [19]		told to watch very carefully for the temperature, see [24] how things go, call me if there's a problem,
question that it was my impression at that time		come in [25] the next day and we'll recheck.
that [20] we were dealing with a gastrointestinal		
process. I [21] thought it was likely that maybe she		Page 67
had gotten the [22] flu, that she had gastritis maybe even a perforated [23] ulcer. I mean, the		[1] Q : Now —
whole spectrum runs here but at [24] that point in		[2] A : And — and I would also ask them if they [3] were comfortable with that decision.
time given her presentation and my [25] ex-		[4] Q: Okay. And do you recall if there was [5] any
perience and the information that 1 had 1 chose to		response from Charlotte Herbert when you told
Page 65		her [6] this? Do you remember any part of the
[1] treat her this way.		conversation?
121 Q: At some point after you saw her in the [3]		[7] A : As I remember they were comfortable with
emergency room did Charlotte Herbert have [4]		[8] that. If they had said that they wanted to be $-$ if [9] they wanted to be admitted to the hospital that
mediastinitis at some point in her hospitalization?		I [10] would have done it. If they were un-
[5] A: Yes, she did.		comfortable with [11] the plan of care that we had
[6] Q: Okay.Do you have an opinion as to when [7] she developed mediastinitis?		outlined we would have [12] changed it.
[8] MS. CARULAS: Note my objection.		[13] Q: When you saw her in the emergency room
[9] A: Some point after heart surgery.		[14] did you have any preconceived plans of admitting her [15] the next day?Had you made any
[10] Q: Okay. Do you have an opinion as to [11]		decisions in regard [16] to admission the next day?
wliethershe had mediastinitisatthe time that you		[17] A: No. My decision at that point was to [18] see
[12] saw her in the emergency room?		what developed over the course of time. We were
[13] A : It's —		[19] in an evolving process and it was important to watch [20] and see what happened.
[14] MS. CARULAS: Objection. <i>Go</i> ahead.		[21] Q: Who is Dr. Krause? Do you know who he
[15] A : Anything is possible.		[22] is?
[16] Q: When you saw her in the emergency room[17] did she have any signs or symptoms of		[23] A: I don't.
endocarditis?		[24] Q: Now, Charlotte Herbert presented to your
[18] A: Not that I was aware of.		[25] office the following day on August 21st. Is that
[19] Q: Do you have an opinion as to when she [20]		Page 68
developed endocarditis?		[1] correct?
[21] A : We had on the — was it the 22nd — [22] transthoracic echocarcliogram that showed nor-		[2] A: Yes, I believe that's correct.
mal valve [23] and that Friday I believe it was that		[3] Q: And did you on that day examine her and [4]
she threw an [24] embolus that was removed and		assess her condition?
found to be a septic [25] embolus. Some time during that period she developed		[5] A: I think we — I don'tremember the exact [6] specifics of it but I — but the — she called and we
		[7] admitted her right to the hospital at that point.
Page 66		[8] Q: Did she come in and did you actually see [9]
[1] mitral valve endocarditis.		her in person?
[2] Q: So is it likely when the echo was done 131 that didn't show any problems that — let me		[10] A: You know, I don't remember.
rephrase [4] this.		[11] Q: Okay. Do you recall doing any kind of a 1121
[5] Is it likely that the endocarditis [6] developed		physical exam or anything prior to admission?
some time after the echo that was done on [7] the		[13] A: I don'tremember.
22nd?		[14] Q: Okay. What was the reason that she was [15] being admitted?
[8] A: All I can say is that there was no [9] echocardiographicevidence according to the [10]		[16] A : Because she had continued to have a [17]
echocardiographer's report of endocarditis on		temperature, continued to feel bad, wasn't doing
the [11] 22nd.		well [18] at home and — and I do recall now she
[12] Q: Now, Doctor, the instructions that you [13]		had started to [19] di-ain from the — from the incision I believe.

[12] Q: Now, Doctor, the gave Charlotte Herbert in the emergency room were [14] that she was to contact your office the next day and [15] come in and see you. Is that correct?

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[20] Q: Do you recall what was within your [21]

differential diagnosis on August 21st when you

saw 1221 her?

[23] A: At that point we had gotten pus out of [24 the incision and we admitted her with the impression,[25] "ruleout mediastinitis, rule out" – I can't even

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[1] read Jeff -

[2] MS. CARULAS: Gastritis.

[3] THE WITNESS: Yeah.

[4] A: - "gastritis."

[5] Q: Was she aclmitted to the hospital under [6] your service?

171 **A:** Yes.

[8] Q: And, Doctor, you had rule out [9] mediastinitis.What factors did you observe in her [10] that would lead you to a differential diagnosis of [11] rule out mediastinitis?

[12] A: At this point things had changed and she [13] was draining pus out the lowerportion of the incision.

[14] *Q*: Okay. Mediastinitis is a deep wound [15] infection, correct?

[16] A: (Witness indicates.)

[17] Q: Okay. And what evidence did you have [18] that this was a deep wound infection as opposed to [19] just a sternal infection?

[20] A: You know, we didn't have any. We could 1211 have just as easily written rule out superficial [22] wound infection. We could have just as easily [23] written rule out substernal infection but we knew at [24] this point with the drainage of the pus that that [25] issue had to be addressed and that we had to find out

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[1] the extent of it.

[2] Q: Who is Jeffrey Weiland?

[3] A: He's a physician's assistant that worked [4] with us at the Cleveland Clinic.

[5] Q: Okay. He was a Cleveland Clinic [6] employee also?

[7] A: Yes.

[8] Q: And, Doctor, there's a progress note [9] that is written by I think Jeffrey Weiland as an [10] admission note at *1420* hour.

[11] A: Mm'mm.

[12] Q: And it says that she was seen in your [13] office and that she continued to have nausea, [14] vomiting, achiness, fever, chills. Is that [15] consistent with your findings?

[16] **A:** Yes.

[17] Q: And did you go to the hospital when she [18] was admitted? Did you see her in the hospital then [19] or did you just see her in the office?

1201 A: You know, I really don't recall exactly [21] what the situation was.

[22] Q: Do you recall checking her for sternal [23] instability on the 21st?

[24] A: I don' trecall that. I recall that we [25] made our decision around the new finding of the

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incision.

Lawyer's Notes

[2] Q: Now, the information that's contained in [3] Jeff Weiland's note would that be information that he [4] obtained from you or would he be doing his own [5] physical exam?

[6] A: No. We'd be doing it together.

[7] Q: Okay.

[8] A: He would be doing his and we'd be in [9] close communication.

[10] Q: Okay.Now, his note from the 21st, it [11] says chest stable with cough. Would that be an [12] observation that he was making with you?

[13] **A:** Yes.

[14] **MS. CARULAS:** How we doing here [15] time-wise? Am I going to catch my 7 flight?

[16] **MS. TOSTI:** I doubt it.

[17] MS. HARRIS: Am I going to miss my [18] dinner?

[19] MS. TOSTI: We will go until we're done [20] here. I'veprobably got at least another half hour [21] or more.

[22] Q: The nurse'snotes indicate that this [23] lady was admitted around 12:15. The doctor's orders [24] don't indicate that there were any orders for blood [25] cultures on this lady until about 2:20.

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[1] Is there any reason why you didn't order [2] blood cultures for her on admission?

[3] A: I don't recall the circumstances.

[4] Q: Okay.Wouldn'tyou expect if the [5] patient was coming in with a diagnosis of rule out [6] mediastinitis that blood cultures should be done [7] immediately upon admission?

[8] MS. CARULAS: Objection.

[9] A: This is pretty immediate for...

[10] Q: Doctor, if you have a suspicion of [11] mediastinitis in this patient wouldn't it be [12] important to put her on prophylactic antibiotics as [13] soon as possible?

[14] A: Antibiotics would be important, yes.

[15] Q: Yes. Okay. So it would be important to [16] get the blood cultures done and then to start the [17] patient on the antibiotics as soon as possible, 1181correct?

[19] A: Yes.

1201 Q: Okay. In this instance there were -

[21] A: Excuse me.

[22] Q: Go ahead. Finish your answer if you 1231 have anything in addition you want to add.

[24] A: No, I don't.

[25] Q: Okay. In this instance there were no

[1] antibiotic orders written for this patient I think [2] until 5:30. Is there a reason why those orders were [3] written at 5:30 and not at the time that the patient [4] was admitted to the hospital?

[5] A: I don't know what the reason is.
[6] Q: You would agree, though, that in a [7] patient such as this with a diagnosis of rule out [8]

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mediastinitis that they should have been ordered on [9] admission, the antibiotic orders? [10] MS. CARULAS: Objection.	Lawyer's Notes	you can finish up within 25 minutes we can [14] call for a cab and at least then — you know, that [15] way you could make that seven o'clockflight
[11] A: I — I don't know how to answer that 112 question. I don't think that a two-hour difference 131 in here makes any difference in the treatment of the [14] patient and the final outcome of the		as well [16] because it's only like ten minutes — [17] MS. TOSTI: I'm not sure. It depends on — [18] MS. CARULAS: Okay. Let's check in ten [19] minutes.
patient nor do I [15] know what the circumstance- recall what the [16] circumstances were that caused that time difference [17] in there but I'm quite certain that it didn't affect [18] the final outcome of this patient and I say that [19] because		[20] Q: Doctor, when you have a patient that has [21] mediastinitis such as the type that Charlotte Herbei-t [22] had what's the purpose of opening and debriding that [23] wound? Why do you do that?
she was started on the strongest antibiotics [20 that we know, that she had a normal echoc ardiogram [21] after that and while on these		[24] A: The basic principles of a wound [25] in- fection is drainage and debridement and it's the
antibiotics she [22] developed vegetation on the mitral valve so do I [23] think that a delay of two hours or twelve hours or [24] whatever in this patient made a difference? No. I [25] think that		Page 76 [1] same for her mediastinitis as it is for any other [2] wound infection.
that's very hard to answer that because it Page 74 III depends upon the degree, the spectrum, the		[3] Q : Does the removal of the infected [4] material and debris from the wound reduce the risk of [5] the infection spreading?
virility [2] of the organism, the patient's immune system and a [3] variety offactors.		[6] A: It may.[7] Q: Does it promote healing?
[4] Q: Now, she had a set of blood cultures [5] that were clone on August 21st and those blood 16 cultures showed that she had a bacteremia caused by [7] Staph aureus. Is that correct?		[8] A: It may and, again, it depends upon the [9] spectrum, involvement and all of the factors that [10] we've discussed several times here before as to how [11] this patient is going to respond and
 [8] THE WITNESS: Is that correct? [9] A: Can I consult the chart? [10] Q: I'm not trying to ask you — [11] A: Okay. 		what treatment [12] is going to be successful. [13] Q: Okay. When Charlotte Herbert came into [14] the hospital on the 21st did you take any action to [15] open and debride her wound on the day of her [16] admission?
[12] Q: — specifically when the blood cultures [13] were clone but ultimately the blood cultures that were [14] done showed that her infection was a Staph aureus [15] infection, correct?		[17] A: We expressed some — there's some [18] drainage. We expressed some purulent material from [19] the lower portion of her wound.
[16] A: I believe that's correct.[17] Q: And that she had a bacteremia caused by		[20] Q: Was there a reason why you did not open [21] the wound on the 21st when she came into the hospital?
 [18] Staph aureus based on the blood cultures correct? [19] A: Yes. [20] Q: Do you have an opinion as to whether the [21] blood cultures would have been positive for [21] blood cultures would have been positive for [22] blood cultures would have been positive for [23] blood cultures would have been positive for [24] blood cultures would have been positive for [25] blood cultures would have been positive for [25] blood cultures would have been positive for [26] blood cultures would have been posi		[22] A: Well, specifically for her it's — you [23] know, it's difficult for the to recall but in most all [24] these patients you take it by stages and — and by [25] the signs and symptoms and the things that you see
Staph [22] aureus if they had been clone in the emergency room on [23] the 20th?		Page 77
 [24] MS. CARULAS: Objection. [25] A: Anything is possible. 		[1] and your experience. And we got some pus out. We [2] didn't get any more. The next clay it looked [3] different and we opened it up and drained more.
Page 75 [1] Q: Doctor, her bacterial endocarditis was [2] also found to he due to Staph aureus. Is that correct? [3] A: Yes. [4] Q: And is it likely that the mediastinitis [5] that		 [4] Q: Okay. How — [5] A: We observed that for awhile and then Dr. [6] Saltus made a decision to — well, then I think — [7] then I think it was noted that the sternum was [8] unstable and the decision was made then to completely [9] open the wound — the incision.
she had caused the endocarditis? [6] A: I think that's likely.		We had hoped to [10] avoid that. [11] Q: How did the wound look different on the
[7] MS . TOSTI: I'm editing.		[12] 22nd?
[8] MS. CARULAS: What's that?		[13] A: It was draining. It was draining [14] purulent
[9] MS . TOSTI: I'm editing.		[15] Q: Okay. It was draining on the 21st and [16]
[10] MS. CARULAS: That's encouraging.		you said you didn't open it based on your clinical
[11] MS. HARRIS: Keep going. [12] MS. CARULAS: If you think that by [13] chance		[17] decision but you did open it on the 22nd because it [18] looked different —

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[12] MS. CARULAS: If you think that by [13] chance

because it [18] looked different -

[19] A: Didn't stop. Lawyer's Notes Page [20] Q: — and I want to know what the [21] difference was? [1] opened the wound at that point in time? [22] MS. CARULAS: Review the records at [23] least just so you're completely [2] A: I don't remember the exact specifies of that but we opened the wound, expressed we could [4] and we might have — if there we little bit there [5] where we didn't do any procedure, any big [6] debridement, no. [25] A: The drainage didn't stop. We took the [7] Q: After the procedure that was done on the evening of the 22nd did you see Charl Herbert [9] after that point in time? [1] dressing off. There was a lot of drainage on the [2] dressing and so we figured that it was more than just [3] a little pus under there and that we needed to look [4] farther. [10] A: I think at that point Dr. Saltus assumed her care.	<pre>/hat as a big e [8] otte [11] [13] rac- [18] /ell. [20] n in</pre>
 difference was? [22] MS. CARULAS: Review the records at [23] least just so you're completely [24] (Pause.) [25] A: The drainage didn't stop. We took the [26] Page 78 [1] dressing off. There was a lot of drainage on the [2] dressing and so we figured that it was more than just [3] a little pus under there and that you meet that was a lot of drainage on the store than just [3] a little pus under there and that you meet that was more than just [3] a little pus under there and that you meet that was a lot of drainage on the store than just [3] a little pus under there and that you meet that you meet that was a lot of the store that you have the two meet that you have the two meets at that point Dr. Saltus assumed her care. 	<pre>/hat as a big e [8] otte [11] [13] rac- [18] /ell. [20] n in</pre>
 [22] MS. CARULAS: Review the records at [23] least just so you're completely [24] (Pause.) [25] A: The drainage didn't stop. We took the Page 78 [1] dressing off. There was a lot of drainage on the [2] dressing and so we figured that it was more than just [3] a little pus under there and the reare. [10] A: I think at that point Dr. Saltus assumed her care. 	<pre>/hat as a big e [8] otte [11] [13] rac- [18] /ell. [20] n in</pre>
 [24] (Pause.) [25] A: The drainage didn't stop.We took the [25] A: The drainage didn't stop.We took the [26] Page 78 [1] dressing off. There was a lot of drainage on [1] dressing and so we figured that it was [20] more than just [3] a little pus under there and [21] think at that point Dr. Saltus assumed her care. 	big e [8] otte [11] [13] rac- [18] vell. [20] n in
[25] A: The drainage didn't stop. We took the procedure, any big [6] debridement, no. [7] Q: After the procedure that was done on the evening of the 22nd did you see Charl [1] dressing off. There was a lot of drainage on the [2] dressing and so we figured that it was more than just [3] a little pus under there and thet was needed to look the forther	e [8] otte [11] [13] rac- [18] vell. [20] n in
Page 78 [1] dressing off. There was a lot of drainage on the [2] dressing and so we figured that it was more than just [3] a little pus under there and that was more than just [3] a little pus under there and that was more than just [3] a little pus under there and that was more than just [3] a little pus under there and that was more than just [3] a little pus under there and that was more than just [3] a little pus under there and that was more than just [3] a little pus under there and that was more than just [3] a little pus under there and that was more than just [3] a little pus under there and that was more than just [3] a little pus under there and that was more than just [3] a little pus under there and that was more than just [3] a little pus under there and there are a push of the push of	otte [11] [13] rac- [18] zell. [20] n in
the [2] dressing and so we figured that it was more than just [3] a little pus under there and that you needed to look (4) for there	rac- [18] vell. [20] n in
more than just [3] a little pus under there and her care.	rac- [18] vell. [20] n in
1121 U. UKAV, WHV IS IL LIAL DE SAIDIS ASSUMED	rac- [18] vell. [20] n in
[5] Q: Okay.Now, you opened only a portion of [6]her care?the wound. Is that correct?[14] A: Well, Dr. Saltus —	[18] vell. [20] n in
[7] A: That's correct. [15] MS. CARULAS: If you know.	[18] vell. [20] n in
[8] Q: Okay.What portion of the wound did you [9] [16] A: — was the staff surgeon there [17] p	[18] vell. [20] n in
open? [10] A: The lower portion. [10] A: The lower portion.	[20] 1 in
[11] Q: Now, is there a reason why you chose [12] [19] Q: So at the time that you were seeing	
only to open that portion of the wound rather than [13] the whole wound?Charlotte Herbert were you working down Cleveland [21] as well as in Elyria; at both place Did was here (20) patients at both places?	es?
[14] A: Well, yes. As I explained before we had [15]Did you have [22] patients at both places?hoped not to have to — to be able to treat it with[23] A: Most likely.	
[16] less aggressive measures, not to have to rewire [24] Q: Did you spend a portion of your time a	t [25]
her [17] sternum. We were hoping that it would be both places during the week?	
a more [18] contained infection. We were trying to in the [19] process watch her clinical course and	e 81
find out the [20] extent of this.	
[21] Q: Now, Doctor, she was admitted on the [22] 21st after she saw you at the office. You opened have been at both places.	t [3]
21st after she saw you at the office. You openednave been at both places.[23] this wound at least according to the note on[4] Q: Okay. And what did you tell Dr. Saltus [regard to Charlotte Herbert's condition when	
[25] A: That's right. [6] took over her care?	_
Page 79 [7] A: Well, I don' tremember specifics of what what I told him but he was there with us when	
[1] Q: — I believe is the note.[2] Did you see her in the morning on the [3] 22nd?[9] debrided it and he was fully cognizant of w had [10] been clone and	
[4] A : Yes. [11] Q: When you opened the wound on	the
 [5] Q: Is there a reason why you didn't choose [6] to open the wound that morning? [13] A: Yes. I - 	/1111
[7] A: Yes.	[15]
[8] Q: Okay. What was that reason? answered.	
[9] A: The wound had less purulent material [10] expressed, slightly less redness and she's feeling	
[11] better are the notes that we made. [17] A: You know, I thought that he was but I— my recall that could be — could be wrong. I d	
[12] Q: Okay. And you're referring to — [19] know.	
[13] MS. CARULAS: The 9:10 a.m. note on the [14] [20] Q: Okay. 22nd. [21] MS. CARULAS: No. Ha was	
 [15] Q: So in the morning on the 22nd did you [16] [21] MS. CARULAS: No. He was. [22] A: It might have been Jeff that was there 	[22]
feel that things were improving at that point? [17] A : We felt that she was resting [18] com- [17] A : We felt that she was resting [18] com-	
fortably, that she was feeling better today, she [19]	
(a) it was more at that point	e 82
[22] Q: The opening of the wound that you did in	the
bedside? note so I'mjust interested in knowing if ther was anyone additional there and if you d	e [4]
[24] A: Yes, it was.recall, [5] that's fine.[25] Q: Did you do any debridement when you[6] Dr. Saltus'snote on the 24th indicates [7] that	

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found some sternal instability. Did he [si discuss her case with you at any point after the [9] 22nd?	Lawyer's Notes	wires in [14] your piactice?
Were you still in on any discussions regarding [10] her care with Dr. Saltus?		[16] Q : Once sternal instability is noted is [17] there an urgency in getting that patient into surgery [18]
[11] A: I remember specifically, yes, to answer [12] that.I remember specifically him telling me about [13] the plansforthe debridement, for opening the		to open the wound, debride it and remove the sternal [19] wires?
chest [14] and, of course, the complication of the		[20] MS. CARULAS: Objection.
emboli.		[21] A: Not necessarily.
[15] Q: Even though Dr. Saltus was managing [16] after that point were you in to see lier at any point [17] that you recall after the 22nd?		[22] Q: Were you present for that surgery?[23] A: No.
 [18] A: 1 don't recall. [19] Q: Did you have any input into the decision 		[24] Q: Doctor, one of the complications that [25] can occur with bacterial endocarditis is that
[20] to take her to surgery for the opening of the		Page 85
[21] remaining portion of her incision and deb- ridement or [22] was that Dr. Saltus's decision?		[1] vegetations can sometimes break off from a heart [2] valve and travel through the
[23] A : Well, Dr. Saltus is certainly capable of [24] making that decision and — and Ibelieve that lie		bloodstream as a septic [3] embolism, correct?
[25] told me that it needed to be done but at that		[4] A : Yes.
point,		[5] Q: And in a patient that has had recent [6] bypass surgery and has mediastinitis if they
Page 83		develop [7] acute limb ischemia would you agree
[1] you know, he was managing the care. I mean		that there should [8] be a high index of suspicion for septic embolism from [9] bacterial en- docarditis?
[2] Q: Do you know why that surgery was [3] necessary? And I'm speaking of the debridement and [4] the opening of the wound.		[10] MS. CARULAS: Note niy objection. Go [11] ahead.
[5] A: Well, as — as this was followed and as [6] this developed the sternal instability occurred. We [7] had pus draining from an incision and an unstable		[12] A: Well, there's a variety of things that [13] cause limb ischemia and an embolus and in that [14] endocarditis is one of them.
[8] sternum and that would be the indication.		[15] Q: Would you agree in Charlotte Herbert's [16]
[9] Q: So would it be fair to say that her [10] infection was spreading? [11] MS.CARULAS: Just note my objection [12]		case that acute ischemia of lier left lower extremity [17] on August 25th should have raised a high suspicion [18] that she may be having
again because he wasn't there but to the best of your [13] understanding based upon this dis- cussion you had with [14] Dr. Saltus.		vegetative embolisms from [19] endocarditis? [20] A : Again, anybody, Charlotte or anyone [21] else,limbischemia,there's a variety of reasons [22]
[15] A : Yes.		that can cause that and we would entertain all of [23] them.
[16] Q: Doctor, when apatient has mediastinal [17] infection of the type that Charlotte Herbert has		[24] Q: Okay.Rut in her case —
why [18] are the wires in the chest usually removed in the [19] procedure?		[25] MS. CARULAS: Just note my objection. Page 86
[20] A: First of all, you're qualifying this as 1211 a		[1] A: I was answering that in her case.
type that Charlotte Herbert had and I've never seen [22] one like hers before in my life. Let me make that [23] clear.But in any patient that has —		[2] Q: In her case should there have beena [3] high level of suspicion that the limb ischemia may be
[24] Q: Let me withdraw the question and [25] rephrase it.		[4] due to vegetative embolisms?[5] MS. CARULAS: Just note my objection [6] bec-
Page 84		ause obviously lie wasn't there to assess this [7] patient and so forth and I think you've answered the [8] question but go ahead. If you can answer it —
indicated to remove the sternal wires? [3] A : Foreign body in a site of infection.		[9] A : I believe I have answered the question 1101 and having not been there and recalling the facts
[4] Q: Okay. And a foreign body in a site of [5] infection, why would you want to remove the		[11] there is no reason — well, I shouldn't comment [12] because I wasn't there. I wasn't
foreign [6] body? What impact does that have on an infectious [7] process?		taking care of the [13] patient. [14] Q: During the time that Charlotte Herbert [15] was hospitalized at Elyria Memorial Hospital did
[8] A : First of all, besides the fact that [9] there's a foreign body and it can be a nidus for [10] infection, they're serving no purpose because		you [16] have any phone conversations with Dr. Mikhail about [17] her?
they're [11] not holding the sternum together any		[18] A: I don'trecall.
more. [12] Q: Have you taken patients to surgery to [13]		[19] Q: Did you participate in any way in the [20] decision to transfer her to Cleveland Clinic proper [21] in Cleveland?

[22] A: No, I didn't. Lawyer's Motes [23] Q: Did you have any conversations with [24] Charlotte Herbert's family while she was apatient doctors at the [2] Cleveland Clinic? at [25] Elyria? [3] A: I don'trecall any specific conversations. [4] Q: Do you have any criticisms of anyone [5] that Page 87 rendered care to Charlotte Herbert? [1] MS. CARULAS: If you recall. [6] A: Does that include the legal team 71 after-[2] A: I don'trecall specifically but I think [3] that I wards? would have in those first two days but I can't[4] [8] Q: I don't believe any of them rendered [9] care specifically recall them. so.no. [5] Q: And after she was transferred to [6] Cleve-[10] Do you have any criticisms of anyone [11] that land Clinic did you see her as a patient at all? rendered care to Charlotte Herbert? [7] A: No. [8] Q: And after she was transferred to [9] Cleve-[13] Q: And do you blame Charlotte Herbert in [14] land Clinic did you have any conversations with any way for the complications that she suffered? ^[10] any of the family members? [15] A: Medicine is an inexact science and we [16] [11] A: Not that I recall. all do the best that we can in it with our [17] [12] Q: Do you have an opinion as to what caused experiences, with our education and with the [18] [13] Charlotte Herbert's death? presentation of things that are given to us. We [19] [14] MS. CARULAS: Note my objection. don't go around pointing fingers and blaming people [20] and — and putting cause on things. We [15] A: No. I wasn't involved in her care at [16] the all try and [21] do the best that we possibly can end. given the [22] circumstances that we're working [17] Q: Do you have an opinion as to what caused in. [18] her subsequent strokes? [23] Charlotte was an unfortunate individual [24] [19] A: I wasn't involved in her care at that [20] that had life-threatening diseases and the [25] time. combination of those diseases came together in [21] MS. TOSTI: Just about done. her [22] Q: Do you have an opinion as to what point [23] Page 90 in time her condition was irreversible? [1] and caused a very unfortunate situation and [24] MS. CARULAS: Objection. some very [2] dedicated people worked very, very hard to try and [3] correct that for her and [25] A: No, I don't. they weren't successful. Page 88 [4] **MS. TOSTI:** Now, Doctor, I don't have [5] any [1] Q: Do you have an opinion as to whether [2] further questions. I don't know if Beverly [6] earlier transfer to Cleveland Clinic for valve [3] Harris may have some questions for you. replacement surgery would have prevented her [7] **MS. CARULAS:** You still there? death? [8] **MS**. HARRIS: I don't have any. Thank you. [4] A: No, I don't. [9] MS. CARULAS: You have the right to read [10] [5] Q: Was Charlotte Herbert's death ever [6] over the transcript to make sure everything's discussed in any type of a staff meeting? taken [11] down accurately. I always recommend [7] MS. CARULAS: Objection. that you do that [12] and not waive signature. [13] I'll order a copy, send it to me, you [14] have my [SI A: It would have been discussed at the [9] morbidity and mortality conference. address and then I'll send it on to the [15] Doctor. [16] And you waive the typical time [17] requir-[10] Q: If Charlotte Herberthad not developed [11] ements? endocarditis and her mediastinitis had been treated [12] successfully do you have an opinion as [18] MS. TOSTI: How much time do you want? [19] I to what her [13] reasonable life expectancy would don't leave it open-ended so tell me what you be? need [14] MS. CARULAS: Objection. [20] MS. CARULAS: Yes. Month to six weeks? [15] A: The easy answer is no. [21] MS. TOSTI: Okay. [16] Q: Okay. How did you learn of Charlotte [17] [22] MS. CARULAS: Is that fair?Okay. All [23] right. Herbert'sdeath? [24] (Reporter retains exhibit.) [18] A: I don'trecall. [25] (6:27 p.m.) [19] Q: Did you learn of her death at some time [20] Page 91 prior to the filing of this suit? JURAT [21] A: Yes. !, CRAIG SAUNDERS, M.D., do hereby certify that i have read the foregoing transcript of [22] Q: Did you have any conversations with any my testimony taken on Tuesday, April 6, 1999 and have [23] of the physicians that treated Charlotte signed it subject to the following changes: 'AGE LINE CHANGE Herbert at [24] Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland?And 'AGE LINE CRAIG SAUNDERS, M.D. I'm speaking of [25] the time when she was DATE:

ange of ange fa (mag

hospitalized there. Did you



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Sworn and subscribed to before me this

day of ,19. NOTARY PUBLIC Lawyer's Notes

Lawyer's Notes

The Cleveland Clini	c Foundation		-	April 6,1999
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Lawyer's Motes

L 2 3 CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER 4 5 6 I, PATRICIA J. RUSSONIELLO, a Certified 7 Shorthand Reporter and a Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that prior to the В commencement of the examination the witness was duly 9 10 sworn by me. I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that the foregoing 11 12 is a true and accurate transcript of the testimony as 13 taken stenographically by and before me at the date, time and place aforementioned. 14I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a 15 16 relative nor employee, nor attorney or counsel to any parties involved; that I am neither related to nor 17 employed by any such attorney or counsel, and that I 18 am not financially interested in the action. 19 20 21 22 PUB/LIC OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY Δ NOTARY 23 My Commission Expires: April 20, 2000 24 C.S.R. License No. 517 25