1	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
2	OF GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO
3	
4	PATRICIA M. FLETCHER,
5	Administratrix of the
6	Estate of VIRGIL G. SLUSHER,
7	Deceased,
8	Plaintiff,
9	vs. Case No.
10	GEAUGA HOSPITAL ASSOC., INC., 97PT0126
11	et al.,
12	Defendants.
13	
14	
15	Deposition of RICHARD S. SILVER,
16	D.O., called for examination under the statute,
17	taken before me, Denise M. Munguia, a Registered
18	Merit Reporter and Notary Public in and for the
19	State of Ohio, by agreement of counsel, at the
20	offices of Jacobson, Maynard & Tuschman, North
21	Point Tower, 1001 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland,
22	Ohio, on Thursday, November 6, 1997, at 10:15
23	o'clock a.m.
24	
25	

1	APPEARANCES:
2	
3	On behalf of the Plaintiff:
4	Musca & Miralia, by
5	DANIEL M. FINELLI, ESQ.
6	Bond Court Building, Suite 1202
7	Cleveland, Ohio 44114
8	(216) 696-7777
9	On behalf of the Defendant
10	Geauga Hospital Assoc., Inc.:
11	Davis & Young, by
12	KEVIN M. NORCHI, ESQ.
13	1700 Midland Building
14	Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1027
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16	On behalf of the Defendant Dr. Blackburn:
17	Jacobson, Maynard,
18	Tuschman & Kalur, by
19	THOMAS KILBANE, ESQ.
20	North Point Tower
21	1001 Lakeside Avenue, Suite 1600
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1	On behalf of the Defendant Dr. Darvin:
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16	On behalf of the Defendant
17	Richard S. Silver, D.O.:
18	Jacobson, Maynard,
19	Tuschman & Kalur, by
20	CHERYL O'BRIEN, ESQ.
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25	

1 RICHARD S. SILVER, D.O., of lawful age, 2 called for examination, as provided by the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure, being by me first duly 3 4 sworn, as hereinafter certified, deposed and said as follows: 5 EXAMINATION OF RICHARD S. SILVER, D.O. 6 BY MR. FINELLI: 7 8 0. Dr. Silver, hi, my name is Dan Finelli, I represent the family of the estate in 10 this case which has named you as a defendant. 11 Have you ever had your deposition 12 taken before? 13 Α. No. 14 Just some ground rules. Q. 15 importantly, your answers need to be verbal 16 responses so the court reporter can take down 17 those responses. If you don't understand a 18 question or haven't heard it completely, stop, 19 ask me, I'll rephrase the question so you 20 understand. Fair enough? 21 Α. Okay. 22 For the record, could you state your 23 full name and spell your last name? 24 Richard Silver, S I L V E R. Α. 25 I've just been handed what appears to Q.

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be a curriculum vitae. Is that current?
1
 2
           Α.
                 Yes.
                 MR. FINELLI: Mark that as
 3
     Plaintiff's Exhibit 1.
4
 5
 6
                  (Thereupon, Silver Deposition Exhibit
                 1 was marked for purposes of
 7
                 identification.)
9
                 Just briefly, Doctor, you got your
10
           Q.
     D.O. degree from Chicago College of Osteopathic
11
12
     Medicine?
13
           Α.
                 That's correct.
                 Okay. Did internship at Richmond
14
           Q.
     Heights General?
15
16
           Α.
                 That's correct.
17
           Q.
                 One year?
1.8
           Α.
                 Yes.
                 Is that your only postgraduate
19
           Q.
2.0
     training, post medical?
                 Outside of continuing medical
2.1
     education seminars and ACLS courses.
22
2.3
           Q.
                 Okay. What did you do after you
     completed Richmond Heights? Did you go into
24
25
     private practice?
```

1 Α. Yes. And what's the name of that private 2 Ο. practice? 3 4 Α. That was Concord Family Medicine. 5 But I was working several jobs at one time, including family practice, worked the emergency 6 room in two hospitals, and I don't remember what I was doing at what particular time, but I've 8 done a lot of different work. For twenty years. 9 10 Q. Are you saying Concord is not in 11 existence at this point in time? 12 No, I sold my office in 1989. Α. 13 Ο. Who did you sell it to? 14 Α. Dave Ward, who is another D.O. 15 So he bought Concord Family Practice Q. in 1989? 16 17 That's correct. Α. 18 Q. All right. And then did you continue 19 in that practice as an employee? 20 Α. No. What did you do? 21 Q. I took a leave of absence for a few 22 23 years, decided to do something else, took some 24 personal time and reflected on what I wanted to 25 do the rest of my life, and ultimately decided to

```
go back into practice in 1992.
1
                 Okay. And the name of that practice
2
3
     is what?
                 Well, I worked for two years in the
           Α.
     Orwell Medical Clinic and I didn't, and I worked
5
     for the physicians, I did not start and own my
 6
     own practice at that time.
7
           Ο.
              All right. So in 1994 you were
 8
     working with Orwell Medical Clinic?
9
                 That's right.
10
           Α.
                 In 1995 you were working with Orwell
11
     Medical Clinic?
12
           Α.
                 That's right.
1.3
                 Where are they located?
14
           Q.
                 In Orwell, Ohio.
15
           Α.
                 And do you have any ownership or
16
           Ο.
     partnership with that practice?
17
18
           Α.
                 No. No.
                 You're just an employee of that
19
20
    practice?
21
           Α.
                 That's correct.
       Q. How many physicians in the practice?
22
23
           Α.
                 Just me. In that location. I'm not
     sure if there were other, I'm not sure the
24
     structure of the business and whether there were
25
```

```
1
     other physicians at other locations.
                 All right. Who owns Orwell Medical
 2
      Clinic?
 3
 4
           Α.
                 At the time, Geauga Hospital was my
 5
     employer.
                 At what time?
 6
 7
                 At the time I was there. Prior to me
     being there, it was Dr. Rhodes' office.
 9
                 Do you recall Virgil Slusher as a
10
     patient of yours?
                        .. - 1436
           Α.
                 Yes.
11
12
                Can you tell me the first date you
     saw him?
13
                 Based on my records, the first time
14
     that I saw him was January 17th, 1995,
15
16
           0.
                 Would that have been in the Orwell
     Medical Clinic?
17
                Yes.
18
           Α.
              And when was the last time you saw
19
           Ο.
20
     him?
                 August 8th, 1995.
21
           Α.
2.2
           Q.
                 So your treatment of Mr. Slusher was
23
     only in 1995?
24
           Α.
                 That's correct.
25
           Q.
                 January through August?
```

1	A. That's right.
2	Q. And all those visits and treatment
3	took place at Orwell Medical Clinic?
4	A. That's correct.
5	Q. Okay. Was there any other physician
6	from Orwell Medical Clinic that treated Mr.
7	Slusher, if you know?
8	A. Not that I'm aware of.
9	Q. And at that time, January 95 through
10	August 95, was Geauga Hospital the owner of
11	Orwell Medical Clinic?
12	MR. NORCHI: Objection.
13	A. I don't know.
14	Q. How were you getting paid during
15	that, during 1995?
16	A. I was paid, I think the company was
17	called Western Reserve Physicians, but I'm not
18	sure if it was Geauga Hospital that made my
19	checks out or Western Reserve Physicians, Inc.
20	Q. Okay. I'm getting a little
21	confused. You mentioned earlier that you were an
22	employee or Geauga Hospital was your employer?
23	A. Right.
24	Q. All right.
25	A. Yes. They were the as my

```
1
     understanding of this, and I'm not sure of the,
     you know, the mechanics of how it worked, but my
 2
 3
     understanding was that Geauga Hospital owned the
 4
     lease or took over the lease of the practice.
 5
     I don't know that they did, I don't think they
     ever owned the building or anything, but they
 6
 7
     would make my checks out through Western Reserve
     Physicians or maybe directly from Geauga
 9
     Hospital.
                I can't remember.
                                    I'm not sure.
10
                 And we're talking about 1995 now?
           Q.
11
           Α.
                 That's right.
12
                 All right. Do you know what type of
           Q.
13
     entity Western Reserve Physicians is?
14
           Α.
                 Not really.
15
                 How were you covered liabilitywise in
16
     January -- or in 1995?
17
                 I had malpractice insurance through
     PIE.
18
19
           Q.
                 All right. And who was paying the
20
     premiums on that, if you know?
21
           Α.
                 I was.
22
           Q.
                 1995 you had a current Ohio license,
     medical license?
23
24
                 Yes.
           Α.
25
           Q.
                 Now, you took a leave of absence
```

1 between 89 and 92? That's right. Α. When you came back into practice in 3 Ο. 92, did you have to do anything regarding state 4 medical board regulations to practice here? 5 During the time I was on leave 6 absence, I kept my license up. I attended 7 seminars and met the requirement to maintain a current license, so when I came back into 9 10 practice, there was nothing special that I had to do. 11 So you're saying your license always 12 stayed active, basically? 13 14 Α. Yes. 15 0. Are you licensed in any other state? 16 Α. No. The Ohio license, medical license, 17 Ο. have you ever had any discipline on that license? 18 19 Α. No. 20 Any revocation of that license? 0. 21 Α. No. Presently where is your office 22 Q. located? 23 Currently I am doing nursing home 24 Α. 25 work and I work at Glenbeigh in chemical

1 dependency. As of a few months ago, I decided to limit my practice just to nursing home work and 2 3 Glenbeigh Hospital chemical dependency. 4 Q. Do you have any specific training in 5 chemical dependency or not? 6 Well, I have worked at Glenbeigh since 1993, so I have got four years experience. 7 But as far as formal training, residency training, no. 9 10 Q. You were with Orwell 94 through 96? 11 Α. That's right. 12 All right. And then when you left Q. Orwell, is that when you started to do nursing 13 home work and Glenbeigh? 14 15 Well, I was doing nursing home work 16 while I was at Orwell and I was working at 17 Glenbeigh while I was at Orwell, but when I quit 18 working in Orwell Clinic, I increased my involvement in the nursing homes and at 19 20 Glenbeigh. 21 Okay. Fair enough. And you're a 22 board certified family practitioner? 23 Α. That's correct. 24 You're still on staff at Geauga

25

Hospital?

	1	
	1 A.	Yes.
	2 Q.	And you were on staff there in 1995?
	3 A.	That's correct.
	4 Q.	Any publications?
	5 A.	No.
	6 Q.	Okay. Doctor, I'd like to go through
	your recor	ds.
;	8 A.	Okay.
<u>-</u>	9	MR. FINELLI: Mark that as
1 (Plaintiff's	Exhibit, I guess that would be B, or
11	2.	be B, or
12		
13		(Thereupon, Silver Deposition Exhibit
14		2 was marked for purposes of
15	The first of the section of the sect	identification.)
16		
17	Q.	Doctor, I'm handing you what's been
18	marked as De	eposition Exhibit 2. Can you tell me
19	if that's th	e complete set of medical records you
20	have on Virg	il Slusher?
21	А.	Looks like it's all my notes are
22	here. It lo	oks complete to me.
23		Thank you. Now, my date is a little
24	cut off there	Is that, I'm handing you what has
25	9-29-48 at th	te top.
L		

```
All right. That would be January
           Α.
1
                  That would be the first day that
           1995.
    17th,
2
3
                 First day.
           Q.
4
                  -- saw him.
            Α.
5
                  Is this his date of birth, 9-29-48?
            Q.
 6
                  I believe so.
            Α.
 7
                  And the date again is what?
 8
                   January 17th, 1995.
             A,
  9
                   Do you know how Mr. Slusher came to
             0.
 10
                 Was he referred to you or --
           you? 🎚
 11
                   I don't recall. I don't have a note
  12
      as to how he ended up there.
  13
                   The first line is his complaint.
              0.
  14
           fair to say he was complaining of stomach
   15
        ain, burning sensation, for approximately two
   16
          nths?
    17
                    Right.
               Α.
    18
                     Now, there's different handwriting
               Q,
     19
            hel Is that done by the nurse or your
     20
             ass nt?
      21
                     The nurse wrote the complaint, and
      22
             then llowed up where it says patient was
       23
              taki ght aspirin a day, that was my
       24
              handwg.
        2 5
```

And so the left-hand side where it 1 0. has height, weight and vitals and past medical 2 3 history, that was done by her as well? Α. That's correct. 4 5 And you review that before you see 6 the patient? Α. 7 Yes. His weight at that first visit was 8 Ο. 9 179 pounds? That's correct. 1.0 Α. 11 Ο. History of smoking, right? 12 Α. That's right. 13 And you wrote he was taking eight Ο. 14 aspirin a day? 15 Α. Right. 16 All right. Do you know why? As I recall, because of his back. 17 His back pain that he had had in the past. 18 19 Ο. Okay: And that's when you requested 20 the records from University Orthopaedic? 21 Α. That's right. 22 Q. And you received those records? 23 Α. That's correct. 24 And that treatment basically 25 consisted of the time period of 1985 and 86?

16

1 Α. I think that's right. 2 And your first note reflects he didn't have any prior surgeries? 3 4 Α. That's correct. 5 Ο. So he never had any back surgery? Α. That's correct. 6 7 All right. And you examined Mr. Q. Slusher at that point in time, right? 8 9 Α. That's right.

- Q. He was also taking Zantac?
- A. He had taken some of his sister's medicine prior to seeing me.
- Q. This whole first page reflects that first office visit, right?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Take me through your exam. Did you examine him, first of all?
- 18 A. Yes.

10

15

21

22

23

24

- Q. All right. What type of exam did you perform and what were your findings?
 - A. Well, I listened to his heart, his lungs, I first of all did a history and questioned him about his symptoms in more detail and then checked out his abdomen and his heart and lungs and, you know, just a cursory

neurologic exam, and what specifically do you want to know?

- Q. Well, tell me about his history. You took a more detailed history about his complaints. What did you learn?
- A. Well, let me see what this -- well, he was taking the aspirin one month prior to his stomach symptoms starting. And he was taking it for his bad back. He didn't have any diarrhea, constipation, nausea, vomiting, but did complain of some increased gas. So he was taking the Zantac that he got from his sister for about eight days and had some success with the Zantac. He told me he had stopped the aspirin a couple of months prior to seeing me. He was drinking a pot of coffee a day. He admitted to smoking one and a half packs of cigarettes a day for 30 years.

And so I checked him over and I made a note of what I thought were relevant physical findings at the time and at that point I didn't find any tenderness in his abdomen, but I did find an abdominal or thought I heard an abdominal bruit and a right iliac bruit. I thought there was a possibility of his liver being enlarged, but I wasn't sure. I found no scleral icterus

1	time.
2	Q. So part of your differential
3	diagnosis was to rule out any type of GI
4	pathology, correct?
5	A. Yeah, uh-huh.
6	Q. And another part of your differential
7	was to rule out vascular insufficiency?
8	MS. O'BRIEN: Objection. Go ahead.
9	A. That, I don't, I don't know, can you
10	rephrase that?
11	Q. Well, just looking at your impression
12	in here, what you just testified to, my question
13	was, to summarize, part of your diagnosis or your
14	differential was to rule out any type of GI
15	pathology?
16	A. Uh-huh.
17	
	Q. I.e. Trritable bowel, colitis
18	A. Right. Right.
19	Q maybe gastritis, and part of your
20	differential was to rule out vascular
21	insufficiency?
22	A. I don't know if that's totally
23	accurate because I wasn't sure I heard an
24	abdominal bruit at the time, so it was, this
25	note, if it were more correctly written, would

have said consider, to me, a note to myself, consider ruling this out, so this was something to remind myself in the future that this may need to be done, but not something that was a directive or something that I absolutely intended to do.

- Q. All right. Fair enough. When you wrote vascular insufficiency, what part of the vascular system were you thinking about?
- A. Well, I was thinking about any vessel in the proximity of the abdomen or chest.
- Q. Were you thinking about an aortic aneurysm?
- A. Well, that's a possibility, yeah, all the possibilities that can cause abdominal bruits, which virtually is any vessel in the body below the neck. So --
- Q. Well, what were the most -- tell me some vessels that would cause an abdominal bruit.
- A. Well, you mentioned the aorta, the iliac vessels, the femoral vessels, any of the vessels within the abdomen, heart murmurs can radiate into the abdomen, any, any organ whose vascular system is compressed by an adjacent

```
organ, by feces in the colon, for instance, which
 1
     can cause bruits, functional bruits in the
 2
     abdomen, so any vessel that's in proximity to any
 3
     intestinal contents.
 5
                 Do you know artery occlusive disease
 6
     could give you an abdominal bruit?
 7
           Α.
                 Yes.
           Ο.
                  Iliac artery occlusive disease?
 8
 9
           Α.
                 Yes.
10
           Ο.
                  Superior mesenteric occlusive
     disease?
11
12
           Α.
                 Yes.
13
           Ο.
                  Inferior mesenteric occlusive
14
     disease, those can give you abdominal bruits?
15
           Α.
                  Yes.
                 All right. So you wrote your
16
17
     impression. What was your plan?
                                         What did you
18
     tell Mr. Slusher or what was your plan as far as
19
     ruling out these impressions?
20
                 Well, at that point, well, I got a
21
     blood profile, we checked his urine.
22
           Ο.
                 How was the blood profile?
23
           Α.
                 The blood profile was unremarkable
24
     with the exception of mildly elevated cholesterol
25
     and mildly decreased HDL cholesterol.
```

Could that be consistent with 1 0. arterial occlusive disease or peripheral vascular 2 disease? 3 I see this in normal people all the 4 Α. time. It could be for -- I mean it did not 5 strike me as being unusual for his age. A cholesterol of 236, it's lower than mine. 7 But my question is it can be 8 consistent with someone that has peripheral 9 10 vascular disease? It could. 11 Α. All right. So you did blood work? 12 Ο. 13 Α. Uh-huh. 14 Ο. Urine, how was the urine? Urine was perfect. 15 Α. 16 Ο. Anything else? Yes, I ordered upper GI and barium 17 Α. 18 enema x-rays. And the results of those were what? 19 Q. 20 The upper GI was basically negative 21 per the interpretation of the radiologist, except for two duodenal diverticula, and the barium 22 23 enema was basically noncontributory also. Q. Okay. 24 25 Although they do make a note that the

1 study was compromised by the presence of fecal residue, but no obvious abnormality was seen. 2 3 Based on those findings, the barium 4 enema and the upper GI, were you satisfied that the abdominal pain that he was experiencing 5 6 wasn't related to GI pathology? No, I wasn't. It wasn't clear to me that I had ruled out anything, but I didn't rule 9 in anything. Had I found something, I would have 10 been more inclined to believe that I had a reason 11 for his symptoms, but the fact that I didn't find 12 anything didn't mean that I could exclude 13 irritable bowel or ulcer, which doesn't always 14 show on x-ray. 15 Based on those two reports, then, did 16 you then consider other etiologies for his 17 abdominal pain besides GI pathology? MS. O'BRIEN: At that time? 18 MR. FINELLI: 19 Yes. 20 Q. At the time you learned of the 21 results of the studies. Well, no, again, I didn't, I didn't 22 consider anything more. What I did consider was 23 24 giving him a trial of medication to investigate

whether he would improve or not. So, you know, I

didn't -- it didn't make me think of anything else just because these were negative.

Q. Why not?

2.0

- A. Because the most likely scenario is that he had dyspepsia or some other spasm in the intestine that did not show on these, so it seemed more reasonable to me to treat him for that first and see if he improved.
 - O. Like a trial run?
 - A. Right.
- Q. Okay. When was the next time you saw him?
 - A. February 14th, 1995.
 - Q. Now, the note above that is dated what? Is that January 23rd, 94?
 - A. That's correct. This was not a -- I did not see him that time. He had come in the office to have his blood drawn and so the medical assistant made a note that she drew his blood and that he had taken, I don't know why she wrote he took two teaspoons of Pepto-Bismol that morning, and that he was scheduled for his upper GI and barium enema. And so she made that note, but I didn't see him that day.
 - Q. Looking at the date 94, do you

1	Q. From the previous month?
2	A. That's right.
3	Q. In four weeks, right?
4	A. Right.
5	Q. Okay. Did you do a physical exam on
6	him at that visit?
7	A. I don't recall doing a physical
8	exam. We talked about his symptoms and went over
9	his x-rays and blood tests. But I don't recall
10	doing a physical at that time.
11	Q. And your impressions included what?
12	A. My impressions were hypolipidemia
13	from the blood test, dyspepsia, nicotine
14	dependence and cauda equina syndrome, those are
15	my impressions.
16	Q. So at that point in time dyspepsia
17	was a working diagnosis, correct?
18	A. Yes.
19	Q. Working diagnosis to explain the
20	abdominal pain?
21	A. That's correct.
22	Q. And then the cauda equina syndrome
23	was to explain the
24	A. His back pain.
25	Q. Was a possible etiology for the back

1 pain? 2 Α. That's correct. 3 Ο. And what was your treatment at that point? 4 5 Well, I told him that he had to stop Α. smoking, again. I told him to stop drinking 6 coffee. I gave him an acid blocker in the form of Zantac and told him to take Mylanta as he needs it. And --9 10 Ο. So the Zantac --Go ahead. 11 Α. Zantac, Mylanta was for the 12 Ο. 13 dyspepsia? 14 Α. That's correct. 15 And you also considered a GI consult? Q. 16 Α. Yes, I did. 17 Ο. If his symptoms persisted? Yes, I did. And the one thing that I 18 Α. 19 failed to write down here, which was policy, 20 standard policy in our office and something that I tell every patient that I see, is to come back 21 22 if your symptoms aren't any better. 23 That visit there, was there any 0. 24 complaints of lower extremity claudication?

No. Not that I recall.

Α.

```
1
           Ο.
                  When was the next time you saw Mr.
 2
     Slusher?
           Α.
                  Next visit wasn't until June 20th.
     1995.
 4
 5
           Q.
                  He was weighed at that visit,
 6
     correct?
 7
           Α.
                  That's correct.
 8
           Ο.
                 His weight was 159 and a half pounds?
 9
           Α.
                  That's correct.
10
                  So it was approximately a seven and a
11
     half to eight pound weight loss from his previous
12
     visit?
13
           Α.
                  That's correct.
14
                 Approximately twenty pounds since
15
     January, right?
           Α.
16
                  Yes.
17
                 Were you concerned that he was losing
18
     this weight?
                  You know, I don't recall what I was
19
     thinking at the time, but I don't believe that I
20
     thought it was so unusual for someone who had
21
     complaints of stomach upset to have altered their
22
2.3
     eating habits.
24
                 Was he relating at that time his
25
     abdominal pain, was he relating a history of
```

abdominal pain to his meal intake? 1 MS. O'BRIEN: On that day? 3 Α. At this day is the first time that I can see or even recall him mentioning this being 4 related to his meals. And my assistant wrote 5 that the Zantac only helped in the beginning and 6 now it wasn't helping any longer. 7 Where in that note is a notation that Ο. it's related to the meals? 9 Right at the beginning, right at the 10 Α. 11 very first line, she wrote patient with complaint of stomach burning a half hour after eating. 12 Patient states Zantac only helped in the 13 beginning, now it doesn't help. And then she 14 goes on to say, to write, that he complained of 15 16 flatulence with stomach burning and depression, his second complaint was depression now with no 17 ambition, he wanted to sleep all the time. 18 Okay. And then you wrote, is that 19 Q. 20 your writing, recurrent abdomen pain times two 2.1 months? That's right. 22 Α. So getting back to this weight issue, 23 you thought the reduction in weight was based on 24

the fact that he probably was eating less?

- A. Yeah, it wasn't a red flag per se, it was something that was noted, but being that he had been depressed recently and had stomach problems, it didn't -- you know, it seemed to explain to me that that's what was happening. So yeah, I was concerned.
 - Q. What was he depressed about? Was he depressed about the fact that he had this abdominal pain? If you know.
 - A. I didn't make a note as to that. I think had it been to something specific, I would have made the note, so I don't think that there was any particular reason that he knew of that he was depressed.
 - Q. Would you have talked to him about it , the fact that he was depressed?
 - A. Yeah, I would, yeah. I think so.
 - Q. No nausea or vomiting, correct?
- A. No, I don't think there was any at that -- or was there? Right, no nausea or vomiting.
 - Q. June 20th, 95, there's no history here on this note of him complaining of any lower extremity claudication, is there?
- 25 A. No.

Okay. You described or you noted 1 Q. that the pain was described as burning, but 2 location is sometimes mid abdomen, sometimes 3 4 right upper quadrant? 5 That's correct. And you also wrote unusual location 6 for heartburn? 7 Α. Right. What do you refer to, what do you 9 10 mean when you write down heartburn? Like a gastritis or esophagitis? 11 12 Α. Yeah. And you also noted that it's always 13 related to eating, his abdominal pain? 14 Uh-huh. 15 Α. Always about a half hour to an hour 16 Q. postprandial? 17 Α. Uh-huh. 18 And not related to what patient eats, 19 Q. 20 not related to any type of food? Right. And then I go on to say that 21 Α. 22 he --23 MS. O'BRIEN: There's no question 24 posed to you. 25 THE WITNESS: Okay.

1 MS. O'BRIEN: He'll ask what he wants 2 to know. Were you still thinking at that time 3 0. that his abdominal pain was related to dyspepsia? 5 Α. Yes, but it made me think that this 6 was more related to digestive enzyme insufficiency because of the relationship to eating. 8 9 Okay. And that was your first 10 impression? Α. Right. 11 12 And then underneath that, what did 13 you write there? 14 Rule out mesenteric artery 15 insufficiency. 16 So you were considering a vascular 17 occlusive disease as a potential etiology for his 18 abdominal pain? 19 I wanted to remind myself, again, this is not something that's a directive for me 20 to act on immediately, but it's a reminder to 21 myself that if his symptoms did not improve with 22 23 the treatment of the digestive enzyme 24 insufficiency and other modalities, that I needed 25 to consider ruling out the mesenteric artery

insufficiency. 1 And in fact you had given him the 2 3 medication of Zantac and Mylanta in February, 4 correct? 5 Α. That's, that's right, uh-huh. And in June, February to June, he was 6 Ο. 7 still complaining of abdominal pain? 8 Α. Well, he got better in the beginning with the Zantac, which led me to believe that the dyspepsia responded to the Zantac, but may not 10 have been strong enough for chronic, for chronic 11 12 use, and that's what I was thinking at the time. 13 Ο. And at the time in June you were also thinking of mesenteric artery insufficiency? 14 MS. O'BRIEN: Objection. Go ahead. 15 Asked and answered. 16 17 It crossed my mind or I wouldn't have 18 written it down. Sure. Okay. And if that was a 19 20 potential etiology, why would you not want to act 21 on that to rule that out immediately? 22 It was a lot more, a lot more likely Α. 23 that his problems were digestive enzyme

insufficiency, dyspepsia, irritable bowel than

what to me was really a red herring and I only

2.4

wrote it down because it was so unlikely, to me at the time, that I would probably forget about it later if I didn't at least record it somewhere to review later.

Q. Okay.

1.3

- A. So he wasn't, and the second reason is that he wasn't -- his abdomen was benign on exam. There was, at that particular day, on June 20th, when I did examine him, he had no tenderness and I didn't hear any bruit.

 Everything was benign. So I had no reason to really suspect that.
- Q. Okay. Let's talk a little bit about mesenteric insufficiency. What's the definition of that?
- A. Diminished blood supply to an organ in the gut that's supplied by the mesenteric arteries.
- Q. And I'm not trying to trick you,

 Doctor, I just want to find out today how much

 you know about mesenteric artery insufficiency.

 Can you tell me the anatomy of the superior

 mesenteric artery?
- A. Not in detail, no. Other than it's a branch of the aorta. Other than that, no.

1	Q. Do you know what part of the
2	intestine it supplies?
3	A. I'd have to review that to tell you.
4	Q. Okay. If I told you it supplies the
5	small intestine distal to the ligament of Treitz
6	and the large intestine from the cecum to the
7	splenic flexure, do you have any reason at this
8	point in time to disagree with that?
9	A. Well, I would have to refer you to a
10	specialist and let them answer this.
11	Q. At this point in time would you have
12	any reason to disagree with that?
13	A. No, I wouldn't have any reason to
14	disagree.
15	MS. O'BRIEN: He doesn't know?
16	A. Yeah, I don't know.
17	MR. FINELLI: I'm just asking if he
18	has, at this point in time, if he has any reason
19	to disagree or agree, that's all.
20	Q. And the answer is no, right?
21	A. Right.
22	Q. Can you tell me the symptoms that one
23	would develop with mesenteric insufficiency?
24	A. Abdominal discomfort.
25	Q. Would you agree that the most common

1 symptoms are abdominal discomfort postprandial 2 and weight loss? 3 MS. O'BRIEN: Objection. He's not an expert in -- he's not a vascular expert, but go ahead, if you know. 5 6 And again, I prefaced everything by 7 saying only if you know. I think that that suits that 8 Α. 9 diagnosis as well as many other, anything that occurs in the abdomen. 10 And again, only if you know, would 11 weight loss over a period of time and abdominal 12 pain be consistent with mesenteric artery 13 insufficiency? 14 15 I guess it wouldn't be inconsistent with it, no. But it's also consistent with a 16 17 multitude of other GI problems. 18 Q. So you wrote that down, rule out mesenteric artery insufficiency, to think about 19 20 it later on so you wouldn't forget? 21 Α. Right. 22 All right. What was your plan at 23 that point in time? 24 My plan was to supplement his food

intake with a digestive supplement in the form of

1	Ku-Zyme.
2	Q. And what does that do?
3	A. That, that helps digest food. If
4	your pancreas or small intestine isn't supplying
5	enough digestive enzyme on its own.
6	Q. Would that be consistent with a
7	malabsorption problem?
8	A. No. I don't I think it's two
9	separate problems.
10	Q. Can you have malabsorption
11	A. Not that they couldn't both occur
12	together.
13	Q. If you know, can you have
14	malabsorption with mesenteric artery
15	insufficiency?
16	A. I don't know.
17	Q. Okay.
18	A. I suppose.
19	Q. All right. So you wanted to treat
20	him a trial period once again for a working
21	diagnosis of digestive enzyme insufficiency?
22	A. Right.
23	Q. And then you put him on Prilosec?
24	A. Well, I had considered a trial of
25	Prilosec and again I wrote that to remind myself

```
1
     that I would want to do that if the Ku-Zyme
     didn't work.
 2
                 All right. So if you write consider,
 3
     that doesn't mean you had acted on that at that
 5
     point?
                 That's right. That's right.
 6
           Α.
                 Now, my note on this page is a little
     cut off.
 8
              Can you tell me what's written, 5,6,
     and then there's something under that as well?
10
           Α.
                 5 is consider trial of Propulsid.
                 And what does that do?
11
           Ο.
12
                 Propulsid is a stimulant to help
13
     peristalsis, prevents requrgitation of acid in
14
     the esophagus for the most part.
15
           Q.
                 And what do you have written under
     that?
16
17
                 Consider EGD with GI specialist, is
           Α.
18
     number 6.
                Number 7, consider John Collis
19
     evaluation for back pain.
                 Okay. All right. And the next time
20
           Q.
     you saw him was when?
21
22
                 The next visit was July 11th, 95.
           Α.
23
           Ο.
                 What was his weight at that time?
24
                 155.75.
           Α.
```

So he lost approximately four pounds

25

Q.

from his previous visit?

1.8

- A. Right. Let's see. Yes.
- Q. And from his first visit he was approximately twenty-four pounds lighter?
 - A. That's right.
- Q. What was his main complaint on that visit, July 11th?
- A. Recheck stomach symptoms. My assistant wrote that the burning was decreased some, but that the flatulence had increased some and he also complained of some nausea at that point.
- Q. Was he still having abdominal pain postprandial?
- A. Yes. However, my note begins with improvement. And I think I was distracted when I began this sentence and never finished it, but I believe that what I was trying to record was that even though he was continuing to have symptoms, they were improved. When my assistant wrote had not gotten better, I think she meant it wasn't completely resolved. By not gotten better. But that it actually was improved, but wasn't completely, completely improved, wasn't completely resolved. So --

1 Q. You also noted at this point in time he had claudication? 2 3 That's right. Α. 4 Is that a question mark after 5 claudication? Yes. He told me that his legs were 6 7 starting to hurt him after he walked and so I didn't know if that was technically claudication or whether it was just soreness, the muscles, 10 that's why I had a question mark. 11 And you checked his pulses? 12 Yes. I recorded no pulse in the 13 dorsalis pedis or posterior tibial. Was that bilateral? 14 Q. 15 Α. You know, I don't recall. 16 Ο. Okay. And once again, you heard an 17 abdominal bruit? At that time I did. That is correct. 18 Α. 19 Ο. So at this visit is it fair to say 20 you were thinking about arterial insufficiency? 21 Α. Yes. 22 Were you thinking about having Mr. Slusher referred to a vascular specialist? 23 I was thinking about that. 24 Α. Yes. 25 Q. You don't have anything noted on this

visit regarding a vascular specialist referral? 1 2 No, because I was doing the -- I ordered the ultrasound of his, a Doppler 3 ultrasound of his lower extremities first. 4 Was that done? 5 Ο. Α. Yes. 7 Where would that have been done? 0. That was done at Geauga Hospital. 8 Α. Q. And you got a report on that? Yes, I do have a report on that. 10 Α. How did you interpret that report? 11 Ο. 12 That he had occlusion of the vessels 13 and that's when I sent him to the vascular specialist. 14 And the next time you saw him was 15 Ο. July 25th? 16 17 Α. That's correct. 18 Q. Did you talk to him about the results of the Doppler? 19 20 Yes. Well, no, because I didn't, as Α. 21 I made a note, I didn't have the report, even though it had been done eight days prior to this 22 23 visit. 2.4 Ο. Oh, okay. So I didn't have it yet. So as soon 25 Α.

4.4

```
as I -- I think we called to get the report.
 1
 2
     the note by another assistant made on July 29th
 3
     indicates that she called the patient and gave
     him a referral.
 4
                 And who would that have been to?
 5
 6
           Α.
                  I'm guessing that that went to Dr.
 7
     Darvin.
           Q.
                 August 8th you see him next?
 9
           Α.
                  That's right.
10
                  95. And you wrote he has an
           Q.
11
     appointment with Dr. Darvin the next day?
12
           Α.
                 That's correct.
13
           Q.
                 Which would have been August 9th?
14
                 That's right.
           Α.
15
           Q.
                 Okay. Did you, did you talk to Dr.
16
     Darvin at all prior to Mr. Slusher seeing Dr.
     Darvin?
17
                 MS. O'BRIEN: Before the visit with
18
     Darvin?
19
20
                 MR. FINELLI:
                                Right before
     Mr. Slusher visited Dr. Darvin.
21
22
                 MS. O'BRIEN: Before.
23
           Ο.
                 Did you talk to Dr. Darvin at all?
                 I don't remember if I did.
24
           Α.
25
           Q.
                 Had you in the past referred patients
```

to Dr. Darvin? 1 Α. 2 Yes. Is it your habit when you refer 3 Ο. patients to a specialist to let the specialist 4 know why you're referring them or for what 5 reasons or what to rule in or rule out? 6 I either call or I write it on a 7 prescription blank, give it to the patient with 8 the doctor's phone number. I don't remember what 9 I did in this case. 10 And if you would have wrote it on a 11 12 prescription, would you have kept a copy for the 13 chart, your chart? Not if I give it to the patient, 14 Α. No. it's only for the patient's information, so I 15 don't make a habit of doing that, no. 16 17 Q. So when you referred him to Dr. 18 Darvin, you don't recall whether you talked to him prior to Mr. Slusher seeing him or handed him 19 20 a prescription note? Yeah, I can't remember. 21 22 If you had talked to him or handed 23 him a prescription note --2.4 My secretary may have called his office and made the appointment because she said 25

she called patient and gave him referral. 1 don't know how, I don't remember how this came 2 about. 4 What would have been the purpose of you referring Mr. Slusher to Dr. Darvin? 5 Because of his insufficiency in the 7 lower extremity. 8 Q. There's a notation dated August 10th, 95. Did you see Mr. Slusher at that point in 10 time? No, I believe that that information 11 12 was due to a telephone conversation with Dr. 13 Darvin after he saw the patient, he called me to let me know that he thought there was severe 14 aortoiliac stenosis. 15 Yeah, mine's cut off. Can you just 16 17 read that for me? 18 Α. It says 8-10-95, Dr. Darvin indicates 19 severe aortoiliac stenosis, probably 20 necessitating endarterectomy and coronary 21 workup. And then you mentioned he did talk to 22 Dr. Darvin? 23 This note's made by me, so as I 24

recall, I talked to him personally and got that

25

1	information.			
2	Q. Do you recall anything about that			
3	conversation?			
4	A. No. Not beyond what I wrote.			
5	Q. Did you think that preliminary			
6	diagnosis by Dr. Darvin would have explained the			
7	abdominal pain and weight loss?			
8	MR. VOUDOURIS: Objection.			
9	A. What are you			
10	Q. Well, you mentioned he had, when you			
11	talked to Dr. Darvin you noted that he indicated			
12	severe aortoiliac stenosis?			
13	A. Uh-huh.			
14	Q. Probably necessitated vascular			
15	surgical intervention?			
16	A. Uh-huh.			
17	Q. My question is at that point in time			
18	did you think that diagnosis of severe aortoiliac			
19	stenosis was an explanation for Mr. Slusher's			
20	weight loss and abdominal pain?			
21	A. No. No.			
22	Q. You still thought GI pathology was			
23	the etiology for the abdominal pain?			
24	A. Yes. Especially since it improved			
25	being on the Ku-Zyme, on 7-25 his dyspepsia			

mproved by 90 percent, still present in the
evening, but was basically better, so I believed
that with the Effexor for the depression and the
Ku-Zyme and the Pepcid in place of Zantac, that
he was a lot -- that he was better, 90 percent
better.

- Q. Okay. Once you talked to Dr. Darvin and discussed the peripheral vascular disease, did you then rely on Dr. Darvin as far as the treatment of Mr. Slusher's vascular problems?
 - A. Yes.

7

8

10

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17

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21

22

- Q. Were you satisfied with Dr. Darvin's diagnosis?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Were you confident that Dr. Darvin would appropriately take care of Mr. Slusher's vascular problems?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. He also had, I think, a Doppler of the carotid arteries?
 - A. Yes, I believe that's in here also.
 - Q. Did you get a report of that?
- A. Maybe I don't have that. No. No, I

 guess I don't have a copy of that. I think it

 must have been done after the referral.

4.9

Q. Did you ever receive a report of 1 that? 3 Α. I don't remember. So you don't recall if Mr. Slusher had carotid artery disease? 5 6 I don't remember if I saw the report or not. It wasn't something that I treated him 7 for. Q. I guess I'm asking you, did you have 9 any knowledge at all that Mr. Slusher had carotid 10 11 artery disease? I don't recall. I don't recall 12 Α. that. I mean it's not in my notes and I don't 13 14 have a copy of the ultrasound. I don't recall. Q. Okay. Do you recall discussing at 15 16 all with Dr. Darvin any mesenteric artery 17 insufficiency? 18 Α. No. And then you have a note dated 19 9-5-95? 20 21 Α. Right. Do you want me to read it or --22 Did you talk to Dr. Darvin at that 23 Q. point in time? You mention, you note here he 24

25

called.

1 Α. No, I didn't speak with him. 2 Is that your handwriting? 3 Α. I don't think I spoke with him. can't remember if I personally spoke with him or not, but this note's written by my assistant. 5 6 That's not your handwriting? 7 Α. No. 8 Ο. She writes need consult, refer to Dr. Oliver or Dr. DeMarco? 9 10 Α. That's right. 11 Ο. What would that have been for? 12 MR. VOUDOURIS: Objection. 13 Q. If you know. 14 Α. I can only --15 MS. O'BRIEN: We don't want you to guess. I mean if you know, you know. 16 17 don't, you don't. 1.8 Q. Is there anyone in your office other 19 than you that authorizes consults for patients? 20 Α. No. 21 If a patient's going to be referred 22 to a specialist, it's you that does the referral? 23 Α. That's right, that would have been 24 for medical management postsurgically in the 25 hospital.

51

```
What type of doctor is Dr. DeMarco,
 7
           Q.
     if you know?
                 Dr. DeMarco is in internal medicine
 3
           Α.
     and I am not sure of the subspecialty.
                 How about Dr. Oliver?
 5
           Ο.
                 Same thing.
 6
           Α.
                 And after DeMarco, it's per Dr. Sike?
           Ο.
           Α.
                 I think that's supposed to be my
 8
     name, Dr. Silver, I think is what they -- and
 9
10
     that's the assistant's initials, CP.
11
                 MS. O'BRIEN: Do you need to get
     that?
12
13
                 THE WITNESS: Yes. Can I use the
     phone?
14
15
                 MS. O'BRIEN:
                               Sure.
                 (Discussion had off the record.)
16
                 Dr. Silver, when would have been the
17
     last time you saw Mr. Slusher as a patient?
18
19
                 On the 8th of August.
                 So when he was hospitalized for his
20
     vascular surgery, you didn't see him in the
21
22
     hospital?
23
           Α.
                 No.
24
                 You weren't involved in any of his
           Q.
25
     care?
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52

```
Α.
                  No.
 1
 2
                  Subsequent to, what date did you say,
 3
     August 11th?
 4
           Α.
                  August 8th.
 5
                  August 8th.
           Q.
 6
           Α.
                  Uh-huh.
 7
           Ο.
                  That's the last time you treated him?
 8
           Α.
                  That's correct.
 9
           Q.
                  When did you learn of Mr. Slusher's
     complications following the vascular surgery at
10
11
     Geauga?
12
           Α.
                  I don't remember when I first learned
13
     of it.
14
                  As you sit here today, are you aware
           Q.
     that he was then transferred to University
15
16
     Hospitals?
17
           Α.
                  Yes.
18
           Ο.
                  And he had an exploratory laparotomy
     done?
19
20
           Α.
                  Right.
                  Which showed necrosis of the entire
21
22
     intestine distal to the stomach?
23
           Α.
                  Yeah, I heard that. I can't remember
     where, if I read it or -- but I was aware of
24
```

25

that.

1 0. Subsequent to September 5th, 1995, have you ever talked or spoken with Dr. Darvin 2 regarding Mr. Slusher? 3 Unless -- I don't recall if he 4 Α. No. 5 called me and said that surgery, after the surgery, that it went well. I don't remember if 6 he called to say that the surgery went well. 7 can't remember that. 8 Ο. And you don't recall any further conversations with him subsequent to the vascular 10 11 surgery? Α. No. 12 13 Have you had any, since his vascular 14 surgery, September 5th, 95, have you had any conversations with Dr. DiBlasio? 15 16 Α. About? Mr. Slusher. 17 Q. MS. O'BRIEN: Mr. Slusher? 18 19 Α. No. Oh, no. 2.0 Any conversations with Dr. Blackburn Q. subsequent to September 5th, 95 regarding Mr. 21 Slusher? 22 23 Α. I don't even know Dr. Blackburn. Have you ever in your practice 24 Q. 25 treated or diagnosed mesenteric artery

1	A. That's correct.				
2	MR. FINELLI: Okay. No further				
3	questions.				
4	MS. O'BRIEN: Anybody else?				
5	MR. NORCHI: I have a few questions.				
6	EXAMINATION OF RICHARD S. SILVER, D.O.				
7	BY MR. NORCHI:				
8	Q. Dr. Silver, my name is Kevin Norchi,				
9	I represent Geauga Regional Hospital, one of the				
10	defendants in this case.				
11	From your earlier testimony, I				
12	understand that in 1995, during the time period				
13	you were treating Mr. Slusher, that you were				
14	working at the Orwell Medical Clinic; is that				
15	correct?				
16	A. That's correct.				
17	Q. You were a staff physician at Orwell				
18	Medical Clinic?				
19	A. Yes.				
20	Q. Were you also the medical director at				
21	some time?				
22	A. Yes.				
23	Q. For what period of time were you				
24	medical director of the Orwell Medical Clinic?				
25	A. For the same period of time that I				

worked there. 1 Your prior testimony today was a 2 little unclear to me so I'm going to ask you a 3 number of questions about your employment status 4 5 and the ownership actually of the Orwell Medical Clinic. Okay? 7 Can you state to a reasonable 8 certainty as to who owned the Orwell Medical 9 Clinic? Do you know who owned it? You know, I don't really know how, 10 Α. 11 what the specifics of the arrangement were. 12 only know that I was approached by Geauga 13 Hospital agents --14 Q. Well, let me stop you. 15 Α. Okay. The simple question, hopefully it's 16 simple, is do you know who owns or owned in 1995 17 the Orwell Medical Clinic? 18 19 Α. I would have to say no. You know, my 2.0 -- I'd have to say no. 21 That's okay. Do you recall with any specificity and certainty who paid you in 1995? 22 2.3 Α. I'd have to look on my pay stubs. 24 0. Okay. Did you have any other --

Which I have saved.

25

Α.

- Pardon? 1 0. 2 Α. Which I have saved. 3 Ο. Fine. Did you have any other 4 employers at that time, other than, or worked with any other organizations, other than the 5 Orwell Medical Clinic? 6 Just as a private contractor myself, but not as an employee anywhere. I never 9 received a check, that I can recall -- well, I worked one week for the occupational medicine 10 11 department at Ashtabula County Medical Center to 12 cover for the doctor while he was on vacation, 13 that's the only time I received a check, other 14 than billing fee for service at nursing homes, and I worked in Dr. Evans' office, and I don't 15 16 think it was during that time, though. You want 17 specifically the dates that I was at Orwell, where else I worked while I was also working at 18 Orwell? 19 20 Ο. Yes, in 1995.

21

22

23

24

25

MS. O'BRIEN: I think what Mr. Norchi wants to know is did you have -- were you an employee of anybody else at any time while you worked at Orwell?

> THE WITNESS: No.

In 1995 were you doing any other fee 0. 1 for service work? 2 Well, I was billing patients or their 3 insurance if I saw them at the nursing home. 4 5 Q. Okay. When you were at the Orwell Medical Clinic, did you do any fee for service work there? 7 No. 8 Α. 9 Ο. Okay. Thank you. Oh, and maybe another clarification, 10 Α. as I'm thinking about this. Early on, in 94, I 11 was admitting patients to the hospital and taking 12 care of them in the hospital. 95 I limited my 13 hospital because I didn't have time. If I saw a 14 patient in the hospital, I billed for that, that 15 was not part of the arrangement with the Orwell 16 Medical Clinic, but any patient I saw at Orwell 17 Medical Clinic I did not bill for. 18 19 MR. NORCHI: Okay. Thank you. 2.0 THE WITNESS: You're welcome. MS. O'BRIEN: Anybody else? 21 MR. FINELLI: That's fine. 22 MS. O'BRIEN: You have a right to 2.3 24 read the transcript, Dr. Silver, if it's typed up, or you can waive that right. You can't 25

```
change your testimony, obviously, but you can
 1
 2
     make corrections in the word spellings, things
 3
     like that.
                  THE WITNESS: Oh, well, I'd like to
 5
     see it.
                  MS. O'BRIEN: Would you like to see
 7
     it?
 8
                  THE WITNESS: Sure, if you type it
 9
     up.
10
                 MS. O'BRIEN: Can we have a waiver on
11
     the date just in case it gets mailed to him?
12
                  MR. FINELLI: Sure.
13
                  (Deposition concluded at 11:30 a.m.)
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
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1 CERTIFICATE 2 The State of Ohio,) 3 SS: County of Cuyahoga.) 4 5 I, Denise M. Munquia, a Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, duly 6 commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify 7 8 that the within named witness, RICHARD S. SILVER, D.O., was by me first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth 10 11 in the cause aforesaid; that the testimony then 12 given by the above-referenced witness was by me reduced to stenotypy in the presence of said 13 witness; afterwards transcribed, and that the 14 15 foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the testimony so given by the above-referenced 16 17 witness. 18 I do further certify that this deposition was taken at the time and place in the 19 foregoing caption specified and was completed 20 21 without adjournment. 22 23 24 25

I do further certify that I am not a relative, counsel or attorney for either party, or otherwise interested in the event of this action. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Cleveland, Ohio, on this 27 day of Ma 1999. Denise M. Munguia, Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio My commission expires May 23, 2000.

A
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