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1	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
2	<u>CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO</u>
3	PEARL LEWIS, et al.,
4	Plaintiffs,
5	-vs- <u>JUDGE_FUERST</u> <u>CASE_NO389421</u>
6	MICHAEL L. GUNSBERG,
7	Defendant.
8	
9	Videotaped deposition of <u>ROBERT D. ZAAS</u> ,
10	M.D., taken as if upon direct examination before
11	Colleen M. Malone, a Notary Public within and for
12	the State of Ohio, at the offices of Robert D.
13	Zaas, M.D., 26900 Cedar Road, Beachwood, Ohio, at
14	6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 30, 2000, pursuant
15	to notice and/or stipulations of counsel, on
16	behalf of the Defendant in this cause.
17	
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1	<u>APPEARANCES</u> :
2	David Paris, Esq. Nurenberg, Plevin, Heller & McCarthy
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5	On behalf of the Plaintiff;
6	Roger Williams, Esq. Williams, Sennett & Scully Co., L.P.A.
7	2241 Pinnacle Parkway Twinsburg, Ohio 44087-2367
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9	On behalf of the Defendant.
10	
11	ALSO PRESENT:
12	Don McNair, Videographer
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1		ROBERT D. ZAAS, M.D., of lawful age,
2		called by the Defendant for the purpose of direct
3		examination, as provided by the Rules of Civil
4		Procedure, being by me first duly sworn, as
5		hereinafter certified, deposed and said as
6		follows:
7		DIRECT EXAMINATION OF ROBERT D. ZAAS, M.D.
8		BY MR. WILLIAMS:
9	Q.	Doctor, could you please state your full name for
10		the record for us.
11	Α.	Yeah, my name is Dr. Robert David Zaas. I spell
12		my last name Z-a-a-s.
13	Q.	And, doctor, what's your current professional
14		address?
15	A.	26900 Cedar Road. We're in what is now called
16		The Cleveland Clinic Suburban Medical Building, I
17		guess that's what they call it. We're on Cedar
18		Road, oh, a quarter of a mile down from the 271
19		exit of Cedar Road.
20	Q.	And are we at that address obviously here today?
21	A.	Yes, we are.
22	Q.	All right. And what is your profession, doctor?
23	A.	I am a physician, an M.D.
24	Q.	When were you first licensed to practice medicine
25		here in the State of Ohio?

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1	A.	I was practice I actually I got my license
2		after I was an intern, so that's 1958.
3	Q.	All right. And do you have a speciality in the
4		field of medicine?
5	A.	I specialize in orthopedic surgery.
6	Q.	Could you give us a little understanding as to
7		what's involved in the practice of orthopedic
8		surgery?
9	A.	Orthopedic surgery is a subspecialty that deals
10		with the skeletal system, which is our bones and
11		our joints. As an orthopedic surgeon, I take
12		care of conditions that involve the spine and
13		extremities; the spine being the back;
14		extremities being the arms and the legs. I'm
15		qualified to do surgery, but fortunately most of
16		the patients that I see don't need surgery, and I
17		can also treat them non-operatively.
18	Q.	Are you board certified in orthopedic surgery?
19	A.	I am indeed.
20	Q.	And how long have you been board certified?
21	A.	I was board certified two-and-a-half years after
22		I was in practice, so it was 1968.
23	Q.	Okay. And have you maintained that certification
24		up and to the present time?
2 5	A.	Oh, yes

		5
1	Q.	Okay. Doctor, could you give us a little bit
2		about of your background, college through medical
3		school, up until the time that you went into
4		private practice?
5	Α.	Yeah, I went to college here in Cleveland at
6		Western Reserve University, now known as Case
7		Western Reserve. I graduated from there in four
8		years with a bachelor of science degree in 1953.
9		We're talking about old history now. I went then
10		to medical school, to the University of Chicago
11		School of Medicine, and I graduated from there in
12		four years with an M.D. degree in 1957.
13		Thereafter, I had six years of postgraduate
14		training, that means an internship, which I had
15		at Mt. Sinai Medical Center. Then I had general
16		surgery training at University Hospital and at
17		Akron General Hospital. Then I had additional
18		orthopedic training at Mt. Sinai, and I finish at
19	,	Indiana University in Indianapolis where I did
20		mostly spine and pediatrics. So all told, I had
21		four years of college, four years of medical
22		school, six years of orthopedic training, general
23		surgery in and mostly orthopedic, before I could
24		qualify to go into practice.
25	Q.	How long have you been in private practice?

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1	A.	Well, there's two more years in there we have to
2		add. Remember Vietnam and remember the '60s. So
3		I spent two years of active duty with the United
4		States Navy, one of which was on an aircraft
5		carrier in the Vietnam area, western Pacific,
6		where I did general surgery and orthopedic
7		surgery. Mostly orthopedic, because active duty
8		personnel get hurt, but they don't really get
9		that sick. And I went into practice in 1965 in
10		Cleveland.
11	Q.	Okay. I assume you're a member of medical
12		organizations or societies, and, if so, could you
13		give us just a brief listing?
14	A.	Yeah, I'm a member of a group of medical
15		societies whose membership is for doctors in good
16		standing, such as: The American Medical
17		Association; the Ohio State Medical Association;
18		the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland. But I also
19		belong to that group of organizations whose
20		membership is for orthopedic specialists. That
21		includes the American Board of Orthopedic
22		Surgery; the Ohio State Orthopedic Association;
23		The Cleveland Orthopedic Society, of which I am
24		past president. At present, I'm the secretary
25		for the continuing education committee.

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1	Q.	With all the changes that we've had as far as
2		hospitals are concerned in Cleveland, what
3		hospitals do you currently have staff or curtesy
4		privileges at?
5	A	Well, that's sort of debatable right now. As I
б		testified, Cleveland Clinic has purchased the
7		building that we're sitting in, where it used to
8		be the Mt. Sinai Medical Center, Mt. Sinai
9		Suburban Medical Center for 20 years, and did
10		much of my work right here. There's an
11		outpatient surgical suite here and since The
12		Cleveland Clinic bought it and has taken it over,
13		they haven't opened the suite yet. So I'm not
14		sure what I'm going to do right now, whether I
15		have to go to Hillcrest or wait for them to open
16		it here. But I have for years, I mean since
17		1965, primarily did all my surgical work at Mt.
18		Sinai in the main campus down in University
19		Circle and a fair amount of it up right here. We
20		have six operating rooms right at the Beachwood
21		facility here.
22	a.	Okay. Are you involved in teaching at all in
23		your field?
24	A.	I have for many years and I still do. Again, I'm
25		chairman I've been chairman, and I stayed on

as secretary of the continuing education division 1 2 of the Cleveland Orthopedic Society as -- my 3 position now is to participate in and arrange seminars for doctors already in practice, so that 4 we can learn to be updated and what's current in 5 medicine. Many of us, like myself, graduated a б long time ago and have to continuously go to 7 school. I'm strongly involved with that. I have 8 taught at the medical school level. I was on the 9 10 faculty for the university orthopedic training programs through The Cleveland Clinic, University 11 Hospital, and Mt. Sinai, until Mt. Sinai closed 12 last summer, and still involved with resident 13 training. I still go over to the Mt. -- to the 14 University Hospitals part of their resident 15 16 training seminars. Doctor, as part of your general practice, do you 17 Q. have occasion to either examine individuals or 18 examine records of individuals who are not 19 necessarily your patients but for the purpose of 20 providing a second opinion or an independent 21 22 evaluation, such as we asked you to do in this 23 case? Right. On occasion. Like my general office 24 Α.

practice technique has been Mondays is a

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1		miscellaneous day for me, usually that would have
2		been my surgical day, or if I had some other
3		things to pick up as far as the office work. But
4		we see patients on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,
5		Friday, and Saturday. Saturday because a lot of
6		my patients work during the week, so I have to
7		stay open on Saturday. But of all without Mt.
8		Sinai when Mt. Sinai was open, I used to see
9		25 patients a week down there. Now that I've
10		lost that, so I now see about 75 patients a week
11		in my office, but one of which would be for an
12		independent examination, such as a second
13		opinion, review of records. That one patient,
14		sometimes two, but mostly one, is for making an
15		evaluation or rendering an opinion and not for
16		treating.
17	Q.	Okay. Doctor, did you have an occasion in this
18		particular circumstance to examine some records
19		that I provided to you in reference to the
20		plaintiff in this particular case, Pearl Lewis?
21	Α.	Yes, I did.
22	Q.	All right. And, doctor, do you have part, as
23		part of your office records a copy of a report
24		dated August 7, 2000 that you directed to my
25		attention in reference to your review of those

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1		records and your findings on that review?
2	A.	That's correct.
3	Q.	Okay. And we also had an opportunity this
4		evening right before we commenced the deposition
5		to have you take a look at a portion of Dr.
6		Froimson's videotaped deposition; is that
7		correct?
8	Α.	No, only x-rays.
9	Q.	X-rays.
10	A.	I didn't see anything on the videographer put
11		some x-rays up, and I watched.
12	Q.	Okay. Feel free, obviously, to refer to your
13		report, as well as answering my questions, as
14		well as those of Mr. Paris, if you would.
15		Could you tell the ladies and gentlemen of
16		the jury what records, Dr. Zaas, that you
17		reviewed in reference to Pearl Lewis?
18	A.	I reviewed an emergency room record from
19		Hillcrest Hospital of December 18, 1997, that was
20		the date of the motor vehicle accident; records
21		of Dr. Bruce Cohn, C-o-h-n, from January 1, 1998
22		to September 23, 1998; records from Dr. Mark
23		Froimson from let me get my date straight
24		here, August 25, 1999 until I believe it was May,
25		2000; and then, finally, records from Meridia

1		Hillcrest Hospital on February 11, 2000 to March
2		4, 2000; and then records from an extended care
3		facility from March 4, 2000 to March 22, 2000.
4	Q.	Now, doctor, in reference to those records, if we
5		could go through them with you. First off, you
6		talked about the emergency room record at
7		Hillcrest Hospital. What did that reveal to you
a		in reference to your review of that record?
9	A.	Well, it revealed that Pearl Lewis was involved
10		in a motor vehicle accident; that she had been
11		taken to the emergency room where she was
12		examined on the date of the accident, namely
13		December 18, 1997; and that her complaints at
14		that time was right knee pain; and that she also
15		reported that she had had a right hip prosthesis,
16		that's an artificial hip joint, it's usually
17		known as total joint replacement, which had been
18		done a couple years before that; and that x-rays
19		of the right knee were done; x-rays of the pelvis
20		were done. The x-rays of the right knee showed
21		arthritis; long-standing condition with
22		arthritis, it's been there for a long time.
23		X-rays of the pelvis showed that there had been a
24		right hip arthroplasty, that's a total
25		replacement, and that the hip device was what the

1		radiologist called not dislocated, it was in
2		place, and that the final diagnosis in the
3		emergency room were hip and knee contusion and
4		that she was released after the examination. And
5		apparently, nothing else was given to her,
6		because she was on a number of other medications
7		for other medical conditions unrelated to her
8		hip, or her knee, or any other bone problem.
9	Q.	Okay. Then following her discharge from the
10		hospital she came under the care of Dr. Cohn; is
11		that correct?
12	A.	Yes. Dr. Bruce Cohn is an orthopedist. He's in
13		this building, also. He had done the original
14		total hip arthroplasty. He did the hip
15		replacement, oh, a couple of years before the
16		December 18, 1997 accident, so he knew her. He's
17		the one that originally did the hip operation,
18		and he treated her from January 1, 1998 to
19		September 23, 1998. And from what I can tell
20		from his record, all he treated was her right
21		knee and her back. He stated that he looked at
22		the x-rays that were done at Hillcrest
23		MR. PARIS: Objection.
24	А.	and concluded that there was no change in her
25		hip and that she had arthritis of her hip of

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1		her knee and that his final diagnosis was
2		degenerative joint disease of right knee and
3		contusion of the lumbar spine and exacerbation of
4		the arthritis of the right knee.
5		MR. PARIS: Objection. Move to
6		strike.
7	Q.	Okay. Now, based upon your review of the records
8		of Dr. Cohn, when was the last time that Dr. Cohn
9		had seen Mrs. Lewis before she came under
10		Dr. Froimson's care?
11	A.	September 23, 1998, oh, nine-and-a-half, almost
12		ten months after this accident.
13	Q.	Okay. Now, in reference to Dr. Cohn's records
14		and your review of those records, did they reveal
15		Mrs. Lewis having any complaints of pain or joint
16		dysfunction in the right hip during the time that
17		Dr. Cohn treated her?
18	A.	Dr. Cohn, who is the orthopedist again, who is
19		the doctor who did the hip replacement, did not
20		make any comment, statement, or finding of an
21		abnormality about the right hip. His record did
22		not indicate that he himself made reference to
23		any hip symptoms. In his records, there are some
24		physical therapy notes that there were some
25		complaints of right hip pain in February, 1998.

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1		Those were rendered those are put down by the
2		therapist, but not by Dr. Cohn himself.
3	Q.	Okay. Was there any abnormal physical findings
4		or complaints recorded by Dr. Cohn himself in
5		reference to the right hip from that time in
6		January of '98 through September of '98?
7	Α,	No, I don't know if I stated it correct, it was
8		from January 7, 1998 to September 23, 1998.
9		None.
10	Q.	Okay. You also had an opportunity, I believe,
11		to review the narrative report of Dr. Froimson;
12		is that correct?
13	A.	That is correct.
14	Q.	All right. And are you familiar with Dr.
15		Froimson, Mark Froimson?
16	A.	Oh, I know him extremely well. He trained at
17		Western Reserve University, and he had his
18		residency there, also. Then he became a member
19		of the staff at Mt. Sinai, and we worked together
20		for all the years that Mt. Sinai was open.
21	Q.	Okay. In reference to Dr. Froimson's report,
22		what was of interest or note to you in that
23		report, in your review of that report?
24		MR. PARIS: Objection.
25	Α.	Well, number one, he didn't see Pearl Lewis until

	August 25, 1999. That's, what, 20 something
	months later after the accident. And he
	concluded that when he saw her that one of the
	components, the thigh portion, which we call the
	femoral component of the total hip, was loose and
	that he recommended that the right femoral
	component be revised; in other words, another
	operation be performed, that the loose portion be
	taken out and replaced by a somewhat larger other
	component, so that he can make it firm again or
	stable again. And he did the right hip surgery
	on February 29, 2000, and he indeed in his
	operative note did state that the femur, or the
	femoral component, was loose and that he
	successfully performed a replacement.
Q.	Okay. In reference to this finding of the right
	hip femoral component being loose his records
	revealed, when did he make that determination?
Α.	Apparently he made it on August 25, 1999, the
	first time he saw her, and that he referred to
	x-rays in his report, which I presume were
	August, 1999, although he was not very specific
	with that, showing that the right hip was loose.
Q.	Okay. And you indicated, I believe, that you
	also reviewed the records from Meridia Hillcrest
	Α.

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1		Hospital and Mrs. Lewis's admission at that
2		facility?
3	A.	Right. That was from February 29, 2000 to March
4		4, 2000. We're now talking two years and three
5		months after the accident.
6	Q.	Okay. And you also had an opportunity, I
7		believe, to review the extended care facility
8		records from March of 19 March of 2000; is
9		that correct?
10	A.	Right. For explanation, our normal procedure for
11		replacing a major joint, especially on an older
12		person, would be to keep them in the regular
13		hospital and do the acute care and start therapy
14		for a period of four or five or six days,
15		depending on how quick they make a response, and
16		then get two weeks of rehab or follow-up therapy
17		at an extended care facility. That is normal,
18		current medical practice for a joint replacement,
19		but mostly in an older person. Younger people
20		can have a joint replaced and go home by
21		themselves.
22	Q.	Okay. In reference to the care and treatment
23		that was rendered to Mrs. Lewis at Hillcrest
24		Hospital and then again at the extended care
25		facility, I assume that was commensurate or

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1		reasonable for the treatment that she had?
2	A.	Oh, yes, that's exactly what we normally do for
3		an uncomplicated case. If, however, we start
4		getting complications, such as an infection or
5		dislocation, now you can greatly extend that,
6		that could go on for months and in-hospital
7		treatment. But what happened on this particular
8		case, what was normally called a right hip
9		revision, which was performed by Dr. Froimson at
10		the end of February, 2000, the treatment in the
11		hospital for five days and then two more weeks in
12		an extended care facility is current accepted
13		normal treatment.
14	Q.	Okay. Now, doctor, based upon your review of all
15		the records in reference to the initial right hip
16		replacement surgery that was done at Mt. Sinai
17		Hospital, were you able to obtain a history in
18		reference to what had happened at that facility
19		back in '95?
20	A.	No, never received it.
21	Q.	Okay. There was some indication in the records
22		of the use of the term trochanteric bursitis; is
23		that correct?
24	Α.	There was reference in some of the later records
25		that Dr. Froimson brought it up that after the

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1		19, I guess it was '95 total hip operation done
2		by Dr. Cohn, there was a problem with what was
3		called trochanteric bursitis. That is a painful
4		condition of the outer side of the upper hip and
5		that went on into late 1996, and, apparently,
6		nothing came of it, because there was no interval
7		treatment between December, 1996 and the
8		December, 1997 accident, from what I was given as
9		far as information.
10		But trochanteric bursitis is of concern to us
11		that do total joint replacements because that's
12		sometimes an indication that the femur is
13		becoming problematic.
14	Q.	Okay. And when you use that term becoming
15		problematic, what do you mean by that?
16	A.	It is a frequent condition that we see in
17		patients after total joints in which there is a
18		reaction between the cement, the material that is
19		put into the bone that allows the stem of the
20		prosthesis to fit closely and then harden.
21		One of the things that you begin to see if
22		the cement starts to break up or becomes reactive
23		to the bone, is that you start getting
24		inflammation on the outer side of the thigh,
25		which presents itself as what we call

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1		trochanteric bursitis.
2	Q.	Okay.
3	A.	That's not the only cause of trochanteric
4		bursitis, it can be strictly just a tendonitis or
5		just an inflammation superficially. But anybody
б		who has had a total hip we are concerned that
7		once you see that, that's frequently an
8		indication that the hip is becoming loose.
9	Q.	Now, in reference to the care and treatment that
10		was rendered by Dr. Cohn initially in 1998,
11		there's some reference in the records that he did
12		an examination and part of that was with regard
13		to the hip rotation examination; is that correct?
14	A.	He says it was normal.
15	Q.	Okay.
16	A.	He basically said that the right hip was
17		normal
18	Q.	Okay. Now
19	A.	through September, 1998.
20	Q.	When we talk about hip rotation, can you explain
21		to us how you do that particular test?
22	A.	Yeah, well, hip rotate you rotate your hip
23		when you cross your leg over the other leg.
24		Here, I'm sitting here, and see what I'm doing,
25		I'm externally rotating. I'm bringing my leg

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1		outward, pointing my knee out that way but
2		bringing my hip up this way. That is called
3		external rotation. If you turn your hip way back
4		inward, that's internal rotation. And if there
5		is a problem with either the hip socket or one of
6		the components, you will lose the ability to
7		rotate it as well or to flex up and down.
8		In more normal people, you could bring your
9		hip up almost your knee to your chest. You can't
10		do that with a total hip, because there is a
11		certain blockage that occurs from the two
12		components and it isn't that necessary. As long
13		as you can get up over 90 degrees, it's pretty
14		safe.
15		But according to Dr. Cohn, she has good range
16		of motion of her hip within the confines of a
17		total hip replacement.
18	Q.	Okay. Would that be significant in reference to
19		the need for revision some two years later?
20	A.	Not necessarily, because a total joint,
21		particularly if it is cemented, is not a thing
22		for forever. We we're getting better, doctors
23		are getting better. When I first started to do
24		them in the '60s, a patient was lucky to get
25		three or four years out of any total joint. Two

or three years would be, boy, you're lucky. We're going to do it again. As you started getting into the '60s, then 70s, '80s, especially the mid '80s and onward and now into the '90s, there is an optimistic aim to try to get up to 20 years from a total joint.

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7 You can't really do that with a cemented total joint. You have to put the cement in and 8 then put the stem in the cement. That will not 9 last as long as when you put a non-cemented 10 custom made fit, where the component fits 11 12 directly into the bone. But you can't do that 13 with older people, because their bones aren't 14 strong enough to do that, so we try to get ten to 15 12, 15 years out of a total hip, if possible.

16 But in certain number of cases, probably 17 equally in the cemented and non-cemented, the hip 18 will start to come loose, will move bone against bone or cement against bone, and once you start 19 20 moving it, the cement will start to break up. And when you look at an x-ray, you can actually 21 22 see where the cement is starting to loosen up and pull away from the bone and that is the 23 24 indication that the hip is becoming loose. 25 That can happen, in many cases, when nothing

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1		happens. If there was no complication, if the
2		person is completely careful and the operation
3		was done expertly, it still can occur. But it
4		doesn't occur in most cases. Probably, probably
5		not one in ten will lose the ability to keep
6		their hip strong, oh, for more than five years.
7		But it happens.
8	Q.	Dr. Froimson had I think earlier this week
9		indicated that about 90 percent of the time that
10		they last for some extended period and about ten
11		percent of the time there would be a failure.
12		Would that be a fair number?
13	A.	He's about right. It's somewhere between ten,
14		12, 14 percent, depending on what it is. What we
15		find, though, if you have to put a cemented hip
16		in, especially on an older person, then the
17		incident of early loosening is greater. It can
18		be up to 15, 18 percent. However, if you have a
19		younger person, a person in their 60s or 50s and
20		then you put a non-cemented hip in, a custom made
21		one, the incident of loosening is much less,
22		probably under five percent. If you put them
23		altogether, it's about ten percent of cases will
24		loosen within a couple of years, even if
25		technically done perfectly.

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1	Q.	And this loosening of the femoral component in a
2		total hip replacement, that can occur without
3		trauma?
4	A.	Oh, yeah. It will occur even higher if there's a
5		complication of the surgery. Apparently there's
6		reference by Dr. Froimson that the first
7		operation in 1995 had to be done in stages. It
8		couldn't be all done at one time, it had to be
9		done at two stages. In other words, part of the
10		operation was done once; she went away; came back
11		a second time; had another operation; had the hip
12		completed. Now that's always associated with a
13		greater incident of loosening. There is
14		reference to that in the record, but I didn't see
15		the operative note from 1995 specifically
16		describing the two stages.
17	Q.	Okay. In reference to trauma, can a femoral stem
18		become loose following trauma?
19	A.	Oh, yeah, we've seen those. Unfortunately, I've
20		had a big collection of my own. But the trauma
21		that it occurs is that one of several things
22		happen: Number one, the femur, the thigh bone
23		breaks. If you are on a scaffold and the
24		scaffold breaks and you fall down with great
25		force and you have a total hip, you break your

1		thigh bone. The thigh bone is a rounded tubular
2		bone into which the stem of the femur goes. If
3		you break the thigh bone, you'vebroken the femur
4		and the stem is going to come loose. Now, that's
5		pretty dramatic. I mean, that's one good way
6		that trauma can break it. You can have trauma,
7		fall down and your hip will dislocate, the socket
8		and the ball come apart, and you'reout of place.
9		That has to be set. Those are the two major
10		reasons that you can really get that type of
11		problem, and, you know, Pearl Lewis did not
12		fracture her femur, there never was any femur
13		fracture at any time during any of the records
14		that I saw and, specifically, from the December
15		18, 1997 accident.
16	Q.	Okay. Now, early this evening before we began
17		you had an opportunity to take a look at some
18		x-rays that Dr. Froimson utilized in his
19		testimony, one of which was in January of `98,
20		then there was a subsequent one I believe
21	A.	Two years later.
22	Q.	two years later in January of 2000, and then
23		the one that showed the hip replacement as it is
24		currently, or how it appeared after the surgery.
25		If we can work our way backwards, as far as the

		25
1		one I assume the one you looked at postsurgery
2		everything looked fine, meaning postsurgery after
3		the surgery in 2000?
4	Α.	Oh, when Dr. Froimson reattached it?
5	Q.	Yes.
6	A.	Oh, yeah, he did a beautiful job doing all the
7		technically proper things for a femur or femoral
8		component of a total hip that had become loose.
9		He removed all of the previous femoral component
10		and cement, he had to use a longer prosthesis to
11		overcome the changes that occur from the
12		loosening, and then he recemented the second
13		component. So he just revised he does he
14		replaced the old femur with the new one.
15	Q.	And you did have an opportunity to take a look at
16		the x-ray from January of 1998, and you were able
17		to see the line that he was describing in that
18		x-ray?
19	A.	Oh, yeah. In January, 1998, which we're only
20		talking a month after this accident, you already
21		can see that the femur was loose or was
22		loosening. I don't know that if on that date we
23		took her to surgery, you could see any gross
24		loosening, but you could see that it was
25		loosening already.

		20
1	Q.	Okay. Dr. Zaas, based upon your education,
2		experience, and your review of these records, as
3		well as those x-rays, do you have an opinion
4		within a reasonable degree of medical certainty
5		as to whether or not that loosening that you saw
6		on that x-ray in January of 1998 could have
7		arisen from the motor vehicle accident that
8		occurred in December of 1997?
9		MR. PARIS: Objection.
10	A.	I do have an opinion.
11	Q.	Okay. And what is your opinion, doctor?
12	A.	It is my opinion after reviewing the video, a
13		very good quality video, by the way, and close-up
14		of Pearl Lewis's right total hip arthroplasty
15		from January, 1998, one month after the accident
15		that we're discussing, that that beginning
17		loosening had already been present for months.
18		It would take six to 12 months before you can see
19		a loosened line like that and that has already
20		been present that long.
21		If you want to go back and ask me if it was
22		related to the trochanteric bursitis, I would say
23		it would be more probable that would be the case.
24		MR. PARIS: Objection.
25	Α.	The trochanteric bursitis occurred in 1995.

		27
1	Q.	Okay. Now, doctor
2		MR. PARIS: Move to strike.
3	Q.	again based upon your review of the records,
4		and let us take aside the x-ray that you reviewed
5		this evening, based upon the review of the
6		records that I provided to you, do you have an
7		opinion, within a reasonable degree of medical
8		certainty, as to whether or not the loosening of
9		the femoral component, which required the
10		revision surgery in February, 2000, was as a
11		direct and proximate result of the motor vehicle
12		accident in December, 1997; do you have an
13		opinion?
14		MR. PARIS: Objection.
15	A.	I do have an opinion.
16	Q.	And what is your opinion, doctor?
17	A.	It is my opinion, based on the material that I
18		reviewed, mainly the Hillcrest records, the
19		records of Dr. Cohn, the records of Dr. Froimson,
20		that the loosening of the right femoral component
21		could not be causally attributable to the
22		December 18, 1997 accident.
23	Q.	Okay. Now, doctor, you did review records which
24		I had provided to you. You did not review any
25		records or any x-rays prior to December, 1997; is

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1		that correct?
2	A.	That is correct. I did not actually see the
3		actual x-rays of any time, although the video of
4		the three sets of x-rays after December, 1997
5		were made available to me today.
6	Q.	Okay.
7	A.	But I saw no records from before December, 1997.
8	Q.	Would it be beneficial, not only to yourself but
9		to the ladies and gentlemen of the jury, to be
10		able to review those x-rays in reference to those
11		taken before December, 1997?
12	A.	Oh, sure. Not only x-rays, but records. I would
13		like, ideally, to show the ladies and gentlemen
14		of the jury x-rays that go back to 1995, '96, if
15		there were any in '97 before this accident, if
16		not, from '97 afterward, and then we all could
17		compare them side to side. There's particular
18		reference now we're concerned about loosening of
19		the femur. My reference would be to very
20		carefully review each one side by side to see if
21		there was any indication, such that was occurring
22		and when it started.
23	Q.	Okay. There has been some discussion, both by
24		Mrs. Lewis and by Dr. Froimson, that at some
25		point in time she consulted with a doctor Lester

		29
1		Borden. Are you familiar with Dr. Borden?
2	A.	Very much so, yes.
3	Q.	Okay. And can you tell us a little bit about
4		your familiarity with Dr. Borden?
5	Α.	Lester, Dr. Borden, is the director of the joint
6		replacement department at The Cleveland Clinic
7		and has been for many years. He has extensive
8		experience with joint replacement. He's a very
9		desired out-of-town speaker and lecturer, being
10		such an authority. Yes, he and I know each other
11		for a long, long time.
12	Q.	Okay. Now, doctor, all of your opinions that you
13		provided us with this evening, I assume, were
14		based upon your assumption that all the medical
15		records that I provided to you were true and
16		accurate copies of the originals, and the history
17		and information contained in there was true and
18		correct?
19	A.	That is correct.
20		MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you,
21		doctor, I have nothing further.
22		
23		CROSS-EXAMINATION OF ROBERT D. ZAAS, M.D.
24		BY MR. PARIS:
25	Q.	Doctor, my name is David Paris, and I represent

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1		Pearl Lewis.
2		You are not and were never Pearl Lewis's
3		physician; is that right?
4	Α.	No, I don't recall her as a patient, no.
5	Q.	You have never met this woman?
б	Α.	I've been a doctor for so long, I have to
7		hesitate a little bit when I answer questions
8		like that. To my recollection, I have never met
9		her.
10	Q.	In the context of the case, this case in which
11		you're appearing before this jury, you've never
12		met this woman?
13	A.	No. But I cannot absolutely say I've never met
14		her at any time during the past 30 years.
15	Q.	Your purpose here in front of this jury is that
16		you were asked by the defendant's representative
17		to look at her medical records?
18	A.	Correct.
19	Q.	And render an opinion in this case as to whether
20		this car accident was a cause of any injury to
21		Pearl Lewis?
22	A.	That is correct.
23	Q.	You never reviewed any of her actual x-ray films
24		taken before her first hip surgery?
25	A.	That is correct.

31	You newer rewiewed any of her actual x-ray films	tak⊵n aft⊵r h⊵ ⊼ ≤irst hip ⊒urg⊵ry?	mhat is correct	You newer recieved any of the actual x-ray films	taken after this acciment?	mhat is correct	or tak⊵n after h⊵r g⊵conû gu r g⊵ry in F⊵ûruary of	2000;	Not the actwal films only the ω iQeo	rpresentation.	Did you ever ask Mr. Williams for thosp actual	films [;]	I think ¤ in p icate p to him I ω oulp like to See	them, yeah.	I mean, let me get the sequence here	Mr. Williams calla you or senWs you a package of	materials here's some meDical recorDs?	Correct.	I need you would you plaap gat inwolved and	express an opinion it you hawp onp right?	That's correct	When you take a look at the records and you	зау to yourзëlf, you knot, н Won't hate the	filmg	corr.ct	
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1	Q.	do you call Mr. Williams typically and say,
2		before I can prepare a report and express any
3		opinions, I ought to have the films?
4	Α.	I express the opinion based on what he sent to
5		me. I concluded, as you will note on page four,
6		that it would be very helpful for me to review
7		x-rays from before and after 1997.
8	Q.	Actually what you say, it's very important.
9	A.	Uh-uh.
10	Q.	Very important are your words to review those
11		x-ray films?
12	A.	Well, it would be helpful. I think I said that
13		somewhere else.
14	Q.	Second line.
15	Α.	Line.
16	Q.	Second paragraph.
17	Α.	Right. Right.
18	Q.	It would be very important.
19	A.	Yeah, I believe so. Yeah.
20	Q.	Did you
21	Α.	But again, I read from the bottom here, also.
22	Q.	I want to make sure that the jury understands
23		that I'm reading your report accurately. You use
24		the terms that it would be very important
25	A.	Exactly.

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1	Q.	to look at those films?
2	Α.	Exactly.
3	Q.	Okay. You realize that Dr. Froimson had the
4		opportunity to review all of those actual films
5		that you did not, correct?
6	Α.	I presume he did. I know he testified that he
7		saw films before the accident but didn't show
8		them, and then he said he did see them, though.
9	Q.	And certainly you don't doubt Dr. Froimson's word
10		on that, do you?
11	A.	But he didn't identify which ones he saw.
12	Q.	And you realize that Dr. Froimson treated Pearl
13		and saw her over a one-year period from August
14		1999 through today, she's still his patient,
15		right?
16	A.	That's correct.
17	Q.	You do I understand that you never reviewed
18		Pearl's old medical records, the records that
19		predate this accident?
20	A.	That is correct, I've never seen them.
21	Q.	You've never seen the Hillcrest Hospital records
22		that describe her first hip surgery?
23	A.	That is correct, I have not seen that.
24	Q.	When you testified about her first hip surgery,
25		is that based on references made by other people?

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1	Α.	It's based on references first alluded to by
2		Dr. Cohn and then more specifically described by
3		Dr. Froimson in their records.
4	Q.	But you never
5	A.	Secondhand, I did not see the records directly.
6	Q.	Okay. All right. So you've never actually seen
7		that operative report from 1995?
8	A.	I did not. There may be two reports, I did not
9		see them.
10	Q.	In all did you ask Mr. Williams for those
11		records?
12	Α.	I would again, I asked for additional records,
13		but I don't know that I specifically got anything
14		other than what I received.
15	Q.	Would you agree that reviewing those records
16		would also be very important to you
17	Α.	Sure.
18	Q.	in assessing, in expressing your opinion?
19	Α.	It would be. Again, my opinion was rendered on
20		the material that I had and that's what ${\tt I}$ based
21		it on.
22	Q.	Of course
23	Α.	If other material came through, if other material
24		added or subtracted anything, it $could$ change my
25		opinion.

		35
1	Q.	I know. But right now we're only about two weeks
2		from trial, so I'm basing my questions on the
3		report that you furnished me.
4	Α.	Mr. Paris, you have the influence, maybe you can
5		get me the records, I'd be happy to look at them
6		if you could get them.
7	Q.	Ask and you shall have them.
8	Α.	Okay.
9	Q.	Next, doctor, you would agree that you have not
10		reviewed any of Dr. Cohn's medical records on
11		Pearl Lewis that predate this accident?
12	A.	That is correct.
13	Q.	So when you talk about this trochanteric
14		bursitis, which Pearl apparently was suffering
15		from before this car accident, that's not based
16		on any records of Dr. Cohn's that you've
17		reviewed?
18	A.	He did make a record, he did state that he did
19		treat her for trochanteric bursitis, but he did
20		not say when, and he did not make any detailed
21		information about it.
22	Q.	For example, do you know whether or not in 1995
23		she had in August of '95 she had complained of
24	e 2	any hip trochanteric bursitis?
25	A.	No.

1	Q.	Do you know, for example, in April of '96 she was
2		treated by Dr. Cohn for this trochanteric hip
3		bursitis?
4	Α.	She was treated in 1996, according to Dr. Cohn,
5		but he didn't say to what exactly month this is
6		followed to.
7	Q.	Did you see Dr. Froimson's testimony, or did
8		Mr. Williams read any part of Dr. Froimson's
9		testimony when I asked him to comment on
10		Dr. Cohn's record of September 4, 1996, in which
11		Dr. Cohn opined that her trochanteric bursitis
12		had resolved?
13	A.	No, I did not hear that.
14	Q.	Okay. And Mr. Williams didn't share that with
15		you?
16	A.	No, I didn't look at any I think I made it
17		very clear to the jury, I didn't want to look at
18		any other doctor's testimony, but I only looked
19		at three x-rays on this video.
20	Q.	And you weren't aware that, of Dr. Cohn's entry
21		in his medical record from December 11, 1996,
22		when he expressed that Pearl's right hip was
23		doing great?
24	А.	I did not see that.
25	Q.	Okay. And of course with the trochanteric
		37
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1		bursitis resolved in September '96 and December
2		of '96 her hip doing great, would you expect
3		there to be any treatment over the course of the
4		next year for such a patient who had full
5		resolution of that problem?
6	A.	No. I mean, again, she didn't have treatment the
7		whole year of 1997, I think that's correct, and
8		she didn't have any treatment for her hip the
9		whole year of 1998 and half of 1999.
10	Q.	Let's start with '96.
11	A.	All right.
12	Q.	You would agree she had made a pretty good
13		recovery, and she was well on her, well on her
14		way to normal activities?
15	A.	Again, I don't have any records to really comment
16		on that, except for the fact that there is no
17		indication from Dr. Cohn, who was the last doctor
18		that treated her in 1996 and possibly '97, I
19		don't even know that, he made no retrospective
20		reference that she was having problems before
21		this 1997 accident.
22	Q.	Right. Doctor, under the circumstances, Dr.
23		Froimson having had an opportunity to review all
24		these documents and you have not, would you agree
25		that Dr. Froimson is in a better position to

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1		analyze Pearl's injury from this accident?
2	Α.	I would, were it not for my viewing of an x-ray
3		of Pearl Lewis's right hip taken barely one month
4		after December, what, 17, 18, 1997, in which
5		there is indication that the loosening of the
6		femur had been there for a long time. That's my
7		particular opinion. It doesn't really make any
8		difference what he got to see before or after, as
9		long as I also had a chance to see that
10		particular x-ray, I then can make a comment on
11		whether causation could be related to the
12		accident you're talking about.
13	Q.	You saw a videotape of an x-ray?
14	A.	Yes, a very, very excellent, as the jury can see,
15		a very excellent and detailed close-up videotape,
16		which clearly showed that the loosening was
17		easily seen at that time.
18	Q.	Okay. Doctor, I seem, and you correct me if I'm
19		wrong, but I seem to recall that hip replacement
20		is not your area of special interest in
21		orthopedic surgery?
22	A.	Oh, wrong, that's what I've done more than
23		anything else, either spine surgery or hip
24		replacement.
25	a.	It is hip?

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1	A.	I gave up doing knee replacements ten years ago
2		and really have done hips and revisions of hips,
3		primary hips, things of that sort, oh, yes.
4	Q.	Your time for reviewing these records and the
5		time for this deposition I take it is being paid
6		by the defendant's representative?
7	A.	Yes.
8	Q.	And your charges per hour for this testimony?
9	A.	I charge 250 an hour.
10	Q.	Okay. The emergency room diagnosed Pearl as
11		having a hip contusion and a knee contusion from
12	- -	this accident?
13	A.	Correct.
14	Q.	You have no reason to disagree with that?
15	Α.	That's correct, I do not, I don't disagree,
16		because I wasn't there.
17	Q.	Typically when you have are you familiar with
18	:	the mechanism of this injury the mechanism of
19		the impact, the collision?
20	A.	According to the records, I am, yeah.
21	Q.	Have you reviewed any of the photographs of the
22		vehicles involved?
23	A.	No.
24	Q.	Are you aware what happens to a body in a car
25		biomechanically when there's a, not necessarily a

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1		head-on collision but a car is coming left of
2		center and hits Pearl's car in the driver's side
3		front quarter panel?
4	A.	That's correct, left front, that's what I have,
5		yeah.
6	Q.	And do you have some kind of an acceleration/
7		deceleration force placed on somebody in Pearl's
8		position?
9	A.	Well, you're kind of at that time your body is
10		still moving forward and when the car stops, your
11		body continues to move. It's sort of a little
12		bit different that happens than from getting hit
13		from behind.
14	Q.	It's not uncommon to see dashboard injuries,
15		under those circumstances, where people strike
16		their knees against the dash?
17	A.	Dashboard, floorboard injuries, yes.
18	Q.	And when somebody strikes their knee against the
19		dash, you have the forces traveling up the leg
20		into the hip?
21	A.	It could.
22	Q.	Okay. You mentioned that Dr. Cohn performed a
23		hip rotation examination on Pearl on January 21,
24		1998, which would happen to be the same date that
25		he diagnosed her as having a right hip contusion

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1		from this accident. He never
2	Α.	I'm sorry, January 7th. Did I say the 21st? It
3		should have been the 7th.
4	Q.	I thought it was January 21st he performed that
5		exam?
6	Α.	Oh, the 21st? I take it back. I take it back
7		then, yeah.
8	Q.	He never performed that hip rotation maneuver
9		again for the rest of the time that he treated
10		her; is that correct?
11	Α.	Well, I don't know, because he didn't put it down
12		in his record. But it is standard fair, they
13		check the whole leg.
14	Q.	Let me stop you. He did not record ever
15		performing that exam on her again?
16	Α.	That's correct.
17	Q.	Okay.
18	Α.	But I can't say that he didn't do it, because it
19		is common fair for orthopedics to only put down
20		abnormalities.
21	Q.	I'm only asking you what he recorded.
22	Α.	He did not record it.
23	Q.	Okay. And, doctor, would you agree that the
24		pain, that pain travels down the thigh into the
25		area of the knee and patients with hip prostheses

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1		is recognized in the medical literature?
2	Α.	Yeah, that's correct.
3	Q.	And do you agree that oh, I'm sorry. Thanks a
4		lot.
5		You agree that occasionally physicians can
6		confuse prosthetic loosening pain with knee pain
7		in such patients?
8	A.	My students better not, but, yes, that's correct
9		that can be a fooler sometimes, yeah. Experts
10		don't get fooled.
11	Q.	I'm sorry, no experts get fooled?
12	Α.	Experts don't get fooled. Not Dr. Cohn, not
13		somebody who has that much experience with joint
14		replacements.
15	Q.	I just want to make sure that orthopedic surgeons
16		can't be fooled?
17	A.	It doesn't happen very much to orthopedic
18		surgeons. It certainly can happen to general
19		medical, who's not familiar with the mechanism.
20		MR. PARIS: Okay. Off the
21		record.
22		VIDEOGRAPHER: We're off the
23		record.
24		
25		(Thereupon, a discussion was had off

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	the record.)
	VIDEOGRAPHER: We're back on the
	record.
Q.	Doctor, if Pearl's trochanteric bursitis had
	completely resolved in September, 1996, as
	indicated in Dr. Cohn's records, would you accept
	that to be true?
A.	I have no other way any other conclusion,
	other than what he found.
Q.	And if it had completely resolved in September of
	1996, would you agree that condition had no
	relationship at all to the loosening of Pearl's
	prosthetic device?
A.	Oh, no, it had nothing to do with it. You will
	get resolution of symptoms at certain stages when
	a hip is loosening, and you can be fooled for a
	while. We as doctors get fooled because patients
	say, well, it's not too bad now. But the
	loosening is a progressive thing. It isn't bad,
	it doesn't cause many symptoms if you don't have
	a lot of pain or inflammation at that stage, but
	as you keep going month by month, it's going to
	change into thigh pain and then pain down the
	leg. That is typical of a loosening of a femur.
	А. Q.

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1		It doesn't have to have trochanteric symptoms
2		continuously.
3	Q.	And she did have thigh pain down the leg
4		throughout her care and treatment with Dr. Cohn,
5		didn't she?
6	A.	No, he didn't make one comment. That's what I
7		was looking for, for the jury's sake, that could
8		be a sign of loosening. I was carefully looking
9		at Dr. Cohn's records for such indication, but
10		all he found was a knee arthritis.
11	Q.	And, yet, doctor, in your four-page expert report
12		that you authored only three weeks ago, August
13		7th of 2000, what you basically told Mr. Williams
14		and myself and I guess you'd be willing to
15		represent to this jury, that without the x-rays
16		and with only the records that I reviewed, I
17		cannot, and you underline cannot, conclude to
18		what degree, if any, the December 18, 1997
19		accident contributed to the femoral stem
20		loosening and subsequent reoperation performed by
21		Dr. Froimson?
22	A.	Exactly.
23		MR. PARIS: Thank you very much,
24		doctor. I have nothing further.
25		
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1		REDIRECT EXAMINATION OF ROBERT D. ZAAS, M.D.
2		BY MR. WILLIAMS:
3	Q.	Doctor, just two follow-up questions.
4		In reference to Dr. Cohn and there was some
5		exchange between yourself and Mr. Paris in
6		reference to Dr. Cohn, are you familiar with
7		Dr. Cohn, also?
8	Α.	Oh, he was our resident, we trained him, and he
9		stayed on, not becoming senior, but he's
10		certainly been an experienced orthopedic for a
11		number of years.
12	Q.	He would be a well respected orthopedist in this
13		area?
14	Α.	Oh, sure.
15	Q.	All right. And in reference to the records that
16		I provided to you, what was going on in reference
17		to getting additional records, et cetera,
18		obviously you have no knowledge of what goes on
19		behind the screens, you rely upon what I provide
20		to you?
21	Α.	Right. I only, again I'll repeat it for the
22		fourth or fifth time, I rendered all my opinions
23		only on the records ${\tt I}$ had and ${\tt I}$ identified them.
24		One other thing popped up that I didn't see until
25		this afternoon or evening was the x-ray, three

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1		x-rays that were done after December, 1997 and
2		the most telling one was the January, 1998
3		x-rays, which showed that there already was
4		loosening. But that's the only thing different
5		from the records that I have identified. I saw
6		x-rays for the first time.
7		MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you,
8		doctor. I don't have anything further.
9		
10		RECROSS-EXAMINATION OF ROBERT D. ZAAS, M.D.
11		BY MR. PARIS:
12	Q.	Doctor, with respect to Dr. Cohn not being
13		fooled, Dr. Zaas, you told the ladies and
14		gentlemen of the jury that the x-ray that you
15		looked at taken one month after this accident
16		clearly shows loosening of the prosthesis?
17	A.	It does.
18	Q.	Dr. Cohn didn't pick that up, did he?
19	Α.	She does have to be symptomatic. Early
20		loosening, I think I testified before, that you
21		remember you mentioned about the trochanteric
22		bursitis, for the jury's sake, when you have
23		inflammation, you feel pain. If loosening
24		continues, you may not feel pain for a while.
25	Q.	Didn't Dr. Cohn look at that film and say
	1	

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1	Α.	Uh-uh.
2	Q.	this film shows no interval changes from her
3		last visit?
4	A.	Yeah. That worries me, because that means the
5		loosening was there beforehand if there's no
6		interval change. That's why I would be
7		interested in seeing the x-rays from before.
8	Q.	It doesn't necessarily mean that at all. It can
9		also reasonably mean that Dr. Cohn did not
10		appreciate the loosening; isn't that also an
11		additional reasonable interpretation?
12	A.	It might be Mr. Paris, but you're interpreting
13		something out of what he wrote. He wrote there
14		is no interval change, period. Go back and look
15		at that. That's all he wrote.
16	Q.	And did you see how he characterized her previous
17		hip x-ray?
18	A.	No, I did not see
19	Q.	And if he characterized that previous hip x-ray
20		as normal
21	A.	I didn't see the previous one.
22	Q.	If he characterized the previous x-ray as
23		normal
24	A.	That's correct.
25	Q.	then he would have been fooled, correct?

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1	Α.	Not necessarily. It may be
2	Q.	Is his interpretation of the January '98
3		report x-ray is different than yours, correct?
4	Α.	I think you have to ask him. See, you and I,
5		Mr. Williams, are trying to make what some other
6		doctor say something where you don't know what he
7		says and his own interpretation.
8		My interpretation is that there was no change
9		from the x-rays from before this accident and
10		that he didn't tell me what there was, but you
11		have to ask him.
12	Q.	Let me say
13	A.	If he called those normal and what he calls
14		normal.
15	Q.	Doctor
16	A.	He may call
17	Q.	When he interpreted in his report the x-ray of
18		her hip in January of '98
19	A.	That's correct.
20	Q.	he never once said that I see loosening of the
21		prosthesis, did he?
22	A.	He said it was unchanged.
23	Q.	He didn't say that there is loosening of the
24		prosthesis, did he?
25	A.	No.

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1	Q. Okay. And that is an abnormal finding; is it
2	not?
3	A. I thought it was abnormal, yes.
4	MR. PARIS: Thank very much,
5	doctor.
6	MR. WILLIAMS: I don't have
7	anything further, doctor. Thank very much.
8	VIDEOGRAPKER: Doctor, you have a
9	right to review the transcript or the
10	videotape in its entirety, or you may wish
11	to waive that right.
12	THE WITNESS: I will waive viewing
13	both the transcript and the videotape.
14	VIDEOGRAPHER: Thank you. We're
15	off the record.
16	(Signature waived.)
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2	CERTIFICATE
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4	The State of Ohio,) SS:
5	County of Cuyahoga.)
6	I, Colleen M. Malone, a Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, authorized to
7	administer oaths and to take and certify depositions, do hereby certify that the
8	above-named <u>ROBERT D. ZAAS, M.D.</u> was by me, before the giving of his deposition, first duly
9	sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; that the deposition as
10	above-set forth was reduced to writing by me by means of stenotypy, and was later transcribed
11	into typewriting under my direction; that this is a true record of the testimony given by the
12	witness, and the reading and signing of the deposition was expressly waived by the witness
13 14	and by stipulation of counsel; that said deposition was taken at the aforementioned time, date and place, pursuant to notice or stipulation
15	of counsel; and that I am not a relative or employee or attorney of any of the parties, or a
16	relative or employee of such attorney, or financially interested in this action.
17	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office, at Cleveland, Ohio, this
18	A day of <u>Neptember</u> A.D. 20 <u>N</u> .
19	\mathcal{O}
20	Olleen Malmy
21	Colleen M. Malone, Notary Public, State of Ohio 1750 Midland Building, Cleveland, Ohio 44115
22	My commission expires August 25, 2002
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24 25	
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