

Debra Strain



6th February 1996

Mr J Leckey LL.M.
H.M. Coroner
Coroner's Office
Courthouse
Crumlin Road
BELFAST
BT14 6AL

Dear Mr Leckey,

Thankyou for sending me Dr Sumners report. I am sorry that I cancelled my appointment with you but I thought as you are so busy and I was afraid of taking up too much of your time, it would be better to write to you with my concerns.

I very much appreciate you asking Dr Sumners expert opinion as it is a comfort to me to know how much you have done to find answers. Although I discussed the report with Dr Savage there are obviously some things that have been said concerning what happened on that terrible day that I cannot understand and are not as I remember them. The first thing is that I have been told that a possible reason Adam did not have his Electrolytes checked before going to theatre could have been that two doctors had tried for an hour between 5 and 6 a.m. to find a vein to put a cannula into Adam without success, so therefore getting any blood would not have been possible. This I know happened because I was there comforting Adam and when the second doctor gave up she told me Dr Taylor would be coming in at around 6.20 a.m. and would come to Musgrave Ward to see Adam and he would put a cannula in at that time. As I have pointed before at no time did Adam see Dr Taylor before the transplant which I did think unusual. Another thing is that I was told by Dr M O'Connor who was keeping me in touch with what was happening with Adam in theatre that morning, that surgery ended at 11.50 a.m. not 11.00 a.m. as Dr Sumner said in his report. This may only be a small point but I can't help wondering at exactly what time surgery ended? Also Dr Sumner states that the I.C.U. staff described Adam as 'puffy' when he went to the Unit, I would like to point out that Adam was not just 'puffy' he was extremely bloated that was why I was so distressed when I first saw him at 12.15 p.m. and in all honesty he did not even look like my little boy which is what I said at the time. This can be seen from a photograph taken by a nurse 24 hours later on the day Adam passed away when he was actually less 'puffy' than straight after transplant. The straight forward explanation of the report that I was given, was that "Adam was quite simply fluid overloaded", but Dr Taylors's opinion was that he gave the right amount of fluid on the day this is one of the most upsetting things that I have heard because I just cannot comprehend how such a mistake can be made.

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I sincerely hope you do not mind me voicing my concerns and I hope you can understand how distressing all this is for me and how much I need to know for my own peace of mind that I am also doing everything I possibly can for my son.

I am sorry that I do not know legally what questions I can ask you but if it is allowed could you please let me know if you are going to call Dr Sumner as a witness at the inquest?

Once again thankyou for all you are doing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Strain". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

DEBRA STRAIN

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