

CORONERS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1959

Deposition of Witness taken on the day of ,
at inquest touching the death of CONOR MITCHELL, before me
MR J L LECKEY Coroner for the District of GREATER BELFAST as
follows to wit:-

The Deposition of DR MARIAN WILLIAMS

of who being sworn upon her oath, saith

I am currently a Specialist Registrar in Paediatrics at the Royal Maternity Hospital in Belfast. I qualified in Medicine in June 1997 from Queen's University Belfast. In May 2003 I was working as a second term Senior House Officer in Paediatrics at Craigavon Area Hospital. This post lasted from August 2002 until August 2003.

I remember being called to see Conor Mitchell on 8 May 2003. He was a 15-year-old boy with a history of cerebral palsy. I was called to see Conor in the evening time, some time after 7pm. I was asked to review Conor by Dr Andrew Murdoch and see if there was anything that we (that is the Paediatric team) could add to his management. I went to see him in the Medical Assessment Unit. I remember reviewing the notes and records before going in to see him. Conor was in a side room. His mother was there as was his grandmother and some other relatives or family friends. I proceeded to take a history from the family. I took a history of what had been happening to Conor and what had prompted his admission to hospital. I have not made a note of the history I was given due to the subsequent course of events but remember the history was very similar to what had been recorded earlier in the notes. I do remember that the family's main concern was that Conor was normally much brighter, he wasn't himself and his fluid intake was reduced. I also remember that they said that he seemed to be sore as he gave out little cries. It would have taken me at least 15 to 20 minutes to take this history from the family.

Conor then had a stiffening episode which I diagnosed as a seizure; his colour drained but this resolved within seconds. I proceeded to examine his tummy because his family were concerned he was sore and there was a history of a UTI. He then had another episode of stiffening and desaturation which I again diagnosed as a seizure. This didn't resolve within a short time (around 10 seconds) so I got one of the male family members in the room to go and ask for help. A nurse appeared and we put on an oxygen mask. The oxygen had to be screwed in at the wall to allow us to do this. Then the crash trolley arrived and bag-and-mask ventilation was commenced. Conor was not making any attempts to breathe. Dr Smith, Consultant Paediatrician, arrived as he happened to be on the ward. Care was taken over by the arrest team and resuscitation continued.

I have been shown a statement of Joanna Mitchell. In this statement Joanna Mitchell states "A young female paediatrician arrived and stated that Conor was in seizure and his pupils were fixed and dilated". I would like to clarify this description of my examination. When I arrived to see Conor he was not in seizure. He was drowsy but settled. I took a history from his family and this took approximately 15 to 20 minutes. He then had a stiffening episode from which he recovered quickly. I then proceeded to examine his abdomen and then Conor had a further stiffening episode that was more prolonged. At that time I said to the family that I thought Conor was in seizure and that his pupils appeared to be fixed and dilated. I witnessed two episodes of seizure.

mwilliam

TAKEN before me this *8th day of June 2004*

Mark Lacey Coroner for the District of Greater Belfast

CORONERS ACT (Northern Ireland), 1959

Deposition of Witness taken on _____ the _____ day
of _____ 20 _____, at inquest touching the death of
_____, before me

Coroner for the District of _____

as follows to wit:—

The Deposition of DR MARION WILLIAMS

of _____

(Address)

who being sworn upon her oath, saith

Mr. McKillop: In the second episode his colour turned blue & his pupils became fixed and dilated. The first lasted probably less than 10 seconds. Possibly the second occurred 5 minutes later. I had no prior involvement with Conor. I believe I was approached by Dr. Murdoch because of Conor's small size. No urgency was conveyed to me. I looked at his medical ~~chart~~ charts. I cannot recall if I looked at the nursing records. I don't think I was aware of spasms but I was aware of the chest X-ray. I spoke to Dr. Murdoch on the phone & then when I arrived on the ward, I can't remember an ECG examination. I did not recall the nurse in Conor's side room. I do not remember Conor making cries.

Mr. Miller: I saw nothing corresponding with the evidence of the family concerning seizures. I saw no rash - I would have noticed one. The family did not give me any history of seizures that afternoon. No concern was expressed about spasms or seizures. When I first arrived & before the first of the two seizures occurred

P.T.O.

I saw nothing to indicate an urgent situation.
I read nothing in the notes to indicate
urgency. My view, as a paediatrician, is
that the management of Connor was
appropriate.

William

TAKEN before me this 8th day of June 2004

M. L. Carley

Coroner for the District of

Greater
Belfast