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CRAIGAVON AREA
HOSPITAL GROUP
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Caring Through Commitment

Ref MBHS/SC

21st October 2003

Statement re: Conor Mitchell (deceased)
Date of Birth 12 10 87

I was called to see this 15-year-old boy on 8th May 2003 at approximately 2100 hours on the Medical Assessment Unit at Craigavon Area Hospital. I was at the time, reviewing another patient's clinical history when I was called urgently by the Medical Registrar to help assess and treat this boy.

This 15-year-old boy with an obvious neuro-disability had had a 10-day febrile illness with vomiting and poor oral intake. He had been admitted to the medical service earlier that day with the diagnosis of urinary tract infection. He had been given intravenous fluids and intravenous ciprofloxacin.

When I was called in to see him he had recently had a sudden onset of tonic contraction with extensor posturing. This was followed by pallor, apnoea and hypotonia. When he was initially assessed it appeared that he was having a seizure but then failed to breathe adequately and his oxygen saturation and heart rate dropped. He was given bag and mask ventilation with a rapid response of his heart rate and oxygen saturations to normal levels. During this resuscitation, because of the presumed seizure, we commenced a loading dose of intravenous Phenytoin with no response. It then became apparent that he was having an intra-cerebral event given that his pupils became dilated and fixed despite adequate ventilation and oxygenation. The anaesthesia team was called and he was intubated without difficulty at around 2115 hours. His heart rate and oxygenation remained within normal ranges.

At that point he was taken to the CAT scan, supervised by the anaesthesia team, and this investigation revealed an abnormal brain with a subarachnoid haemorrhage. He was transferred following this to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for further care.

At intervals during this two hour period I explained the evolving events to the mother, grandmother and grandfather. During his resuscitation I was joined by Dr McEneaney (the medical consultant responsible for the Medical Assessment Unit). I transferred the care of this patient to Dr McEneaney and Dr Liam McCaughey in the Intensive Care Unit. The prognosis was discussed with the parents and grandparents and care was carried on by the ICU and medical team.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M Smith".

Dr Michael B H Smith MB BCH FRCPCH
Consultant Paediatrician