

**Second Supplementary Report on
Claire Margaret Roberts (deceased)**

Date of birth: 10 January 1987

Date of death 23 October 1996

Second supplementary report on: Claire Margaret Roberts (d.o.b. 10.01.1987)

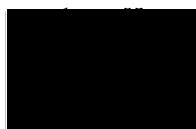
Report author: Prof KAV Cartwright
Consultant Clinical Microbiologist

Instructed by: Ms H Win
Assistant Solicitor to the Inquiry
Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-Related Deaths (IHRD)

Reference: IHRDNI - Roberts

Date of report: October 2012

Prof KAV Cartwright MA BM FRCP FRCPath FFPH



Tel:
Mobile:
E-mail:



Instructions

I have been provided with a new and clearer photocopy of a pathology report relating to the examination of a specimen of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) that was obtained from Claire Roberts shortly after her death on 23 October 1996. This new photocopy was provided by Ms H Win, Assistant Solicitor to the Inquiry. In my original report (March 2011) and in my Supplementary Report (June 2012) I stated that the CSF sample was obtained on 24 October 1996, the day after Claire's death. The new photocopy gives the 'Specimen Date' as 25 October 1996. I have been instructed to consider whether this new information alters any of my opinions.

Statement of Truth

I understand that my duty as an expert is to provide evidence for the benefit of the Inquiry and not for any individual party or parties, on the matters within my expertise. I believe that I have complied with that duty and confirm that I will continue to do so.

I confirm that I have made clear which facts and matters referred to in this report are within my own knowledge and which are not. Those that are within my own knowledge I confirm to be true. The opinions I have expressed represent my true and complete professional opinions on the matters to which they refer.

I confirm that I have no conflict of interest of any kind, other than any disclosed in this report. I do not consider that any interest that I have disclosed affects my suitability as an expert witness on any issue on which I have given evidence. I undertake to advise the Inquiry Secretariat if there is any change in circumstances that affects the above.

KAV. Cartwright
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Prof. KAV Cartwright

Further Opinion

In my original report I explained that there is very little information and very little clinical experience in the interpretation of CSF cytology when such specimens are obtained after death of the patient. It is known that all cells, including both red blood cells and white blood cells begin to lyse (break down) after death and that the latter are more vulnerable to this process than the former. The speed of lysis is probably quite variable and the temperature of the body will be a major determinant of the rate of cellular breakdown.

If the CSF 'Specimen Date' of 25 October 1996 is correct i.e. the CSF specimen was indeed obtained from Claire on that date, in my view it is probable that Claire's body was taken to a mortuary and refrigerated for the majority of the time between her death and the collection of the CSF specimen. This would have reduced the impact of the delay in collecting the CSF on the interpretation of the results.

An alternative possibility is that the CSF specimen was in fact collected on 24 October 1996 but was not registered on the laboratory computer system until the following day, when an automated computerised date of 25 October 1996 may have been appended to the specimen. This happens quite commonly when specimens arrive in a laboratory late in the afternoon or in the evening.

In either of the above scenarios, my opinion on the significance of the findings is unchanged.