

The **ROYAL**
HOSPITALS

Director of Medical Administration
GEORGE A. MURNAGHAN MB BCH BAO MAO FRCOG LM

Medical Administration Department
First Floor, East Wing, Royal Victoria
Hospital

Fax Cover Sheet

DATE: 7th June 1996

TIME: 2.30 pm.

TO: Mr G. Brangan.

FAX:

FROM: Dr Murnaghan

PHONE:
FAX:

RE: Adam Strain.

Number of pages including cover sheet:

③

Message -

It appears, that your fax to me which I have circulated under cover of the accompanying memorandum, has crossed with the attached which came in recently.

AS - ROYAL

PATRON: HRH The Duchess of Kent

The Royal Victoria Hospital
The Royal Maternity Hospital
The Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children

THE ROYAL GROUP OF HOSPITALS AND DENTAL HOSPITAL
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TRUST

Grosvenor Road, Belfast BT12 6BA Northern Ireland
Telephone: Switchboard
Direct Dial

059-009-026

faxed
today
7/6/96
JG

[REDACTED]

THE ROYAL HOSPITALS
MEDICAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
1ST FLOOR - EAST WING
MEMORANDUM

FROM: Dr G A Murnaghan
Director of Medical Administration

TO: The Undernoted

REF: A.49/95/43/J

DATE: 7 June 1996

Re: Adam Strain (deceased)

Attached is a copy of a lengthy fax recently received from George Brangam, which raises several queries and requirements which are urgent and need attention and response as soon as possible.

I will ask Rosemary Moore to make the administrative arrangements for the next meeting which will need to take place in the middle of next week. Perhaps at that time it would be possible for Bob to take the two Georges over to the RBHSC Operating Theatre to view the monitoring equipment and associated tubings etc.

George

ENCs

circulated to: Dr R H Taylor
Dr M Savage
Dr J Gaston

date typed: 07/06/96

/rm

Sent on 7/6/96

Mr Brangham,

Regarding Thiopentone and steroids for brain protection;

1. Dr Sumner states that the induction of anaesthesia was appropriate. Since this involved the use of thiopentone then it could not be detrimental.
2. The only alternatives to thiopentone are *propofol* or *ketamine*. The effects of these drugs on brain function are more controversial than thiopentone.
3. The medical literature on barbiturates and steroids on brain function is divided. There are no definitive articles on human brain involving outcome. Many articles involve the head injured patient, those undergoing heart surgery or animals. The relevance of such articles to Adam's case is debatable. On a 'Medline' search of the literature for the 3 most recent years there are 3 articles which show thiopentone to be protective or not harmful to brain function. Only 1 article involving the energy function of the sheep brain indirectly suggests possible harm. There were no articles suggesting that steroids are harmful but 2 suggest a beneficial role.
4. It remains current clinical practice in many paediatric cardiac and neurological centres to use both thiopentone and steroids to protect the brain. In fact it is current practice at the RGH.

Therefore while Dr Sumner may be technically correct in arguing that these drugs have a dubious role in cerebral protection his comments do not give a balance of current literature nor practice. Furthermore as I have stated I did not administer these drugs specifically for brain protection as I had no advance knowledge nor speculation that brain damage would occur.

Yours,

Robert Taylor

Re; Isotonic fluids.

Textbook "Intravenous Technique and Therapy" by A.A. Gilbertson 1984
William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd, London

pages 7 & 8 "Thus, one-fifth normal saline in four-fifths normal dextrose (0.18% sodium chloride + 4% dextrose) is an isotonic solution containing 30 mmol Na⁺/litre, and 2500 ml will meet the normal daily requirements of sodium and water"