

CORONERS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1959

Deposition of Witness taken on TUESDAY the 5th day of FEBRUARY 2003, at inquest touching the death of RAYCHEL FERGUSON, before me MR J L LECKEY Coroner for the District of GREATER BELFAST as follows to wit:-

The Deposition of MR ROBERT GILLILAND – CONSULTANT SURGEON of ALTNAGELVIN AREA HOSPITAL, GLENSHANE ROAD, LONDONDERRY who being sworn upon his oath, saith

I am a Consultant Surgeon at Altnagelvin Area Hospital. Raychel Ferguson was admitted under my care as an emergency admission at approximately 8.00 p.m. on 7th June 2001.

She was seen at Accident and Emergency by Mr Makar the Surgical SHO on call. She had a history of periumbilical pain for a few hours, which had shifted to the right iliac fossa. On examination she was tender with mild rebound over McBurney's point. A diagnosis of acute appendicitis was made. Consent was taken for appendectomy and she was admitted to Ward 6. Later that evening at approximately 11.40 p.m. a straightforward appendectomy was performed. The appendix was mildly congested and contained a faecolith. The operation was uneventful.

The Nursing records show that Raychel had a comfortable postoperative night. It was recorded that there were no complaints of pain. The following morning 8-6-01 Raychel was seen by Mr Zafar Surgical SHO. It is recorded that she appeared to be making satisfactory progress. Nursing observations continued throughout the day. It is recorded in the Nursing Records that Raychel vomited three times during the day. She was given "Zofran 2mg". She continued to be nauseated and vomited twice, and at

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21.25 hours during the medicine round it was noted that she had a Headache. Paracetamol 500mg was administered rectally. She was given "Valoid" 25mg intravenously for the nausea. At approximately 23.30 hours Raychel appeared to settle to sleep. It is recorded that there were no complaints of abdominal pain.

At approximately 3.00 a.m. on 9-6-01 Raychel had a seizure. She was seen by Dr J Johnston the Paediatric SHO on call. He called Dr M Curran Surgical JHO who attended the ward. Dr Curran contacted his senior colleague Mr Zafar. At approximately 4.15 a.m. Dr Johnston asked his senior colleague to assess Raychel. She took over management of the child.

I did not see Raychel at any time during her stay in hospital and my comments are based on her clinical records.

TAKEN before me this 5th day of FEBRUARY 2003

Coroner for the District of Greater Belfast

RF - ROYAL

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