

STATEMENT OF WITNESS**STATEMENT OF:**

Gillian Popplestone

Name

Rank

AGE OF WITNESS (If over 18 enter "over 18"): Over 18*To be completed
when the statement
has been written*

I declare that this statement consisting of page, signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 31st day of January 2006



SIGNATURE OF MEMBER by whom
statement was recorded or received

PJ MONAGHAN

PRINT NAME IN CAPS

S M Popplestone

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I qualified in 1992 as a Registered General Nurse and as a Registered Sick Children's Nurse; this qualified me to work with adults and children. However, from the time I qualified I have only ever worked in paediatrics. Initially in Craigavon from October 1992 until July 1994, then I commenced working in the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children in theatres. On 27th November 1995 I commenced duty at 8am in theatre; I took over from Staff Nurse Conway as Scrub Nurse for the duration of a kidney transplant operation on Adam Strain. My responsibility was to assist surgeons, passing instruments, swabs and sutures as required. Any blood soaked swabs either passed to me or removed by me were placed in a metal runabout at floor level. They were retrieved by the circulating nurse, who weighed them recording the loss on a white notice board on the wall which was visible to all staff. Once the swabs were weighed they were placed on a swab rack by the circulating nurse. This rack was clearly visible in theatre. By placing them on the rack, this also ensured that when the counts were being completed they were clearly visible to

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myself and the circulating nurse to facilitate an accurate count. The loss was recorded as a running total. Any blood suctioned from the abdominal cavity was collected in a measuring bottle. This transplant operation was my first and my only operation of this kind; I have not been present in a transplant operation since and have not acted as a theatre nurse since December 1996. In relation to the operation involving Adam Strain I do not remember exactly all that happened, however, I do remember some of it as it was not something that happened every day. I recall that there was a Staff Nurse Matheson was acting as a circulating nurse for at least part of the operation; her duty was to assist me. Also present were Doctors Taylor, Montague, Brown and a transplant surgeon from the City Hospital whose name I do not recall. I cannot be certain, however, from my experience it is possible that the anaesthetists had the assistance of a nurse and possibly an operating technician. My recollection is that during my time between 8am to around midday this operation proceeded as expected until at the end of the operation there was concern from the anaesthetists that Adam would not waken up. I also recall the surgeons discussing possible discolouration of the kidney at the time of transplant. This concern appeared to subside as the operation progressed. I do not remember anything else unusual about the progress of this operation. At about midday Adam was transferred to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit. Before this my duties with regard to Adam ceased; once closure of the wound is made and the drapes are taken off it is my responsibility that the equipment is packed away and disposed of; this is done in a different area. I have been asked if I remember any discussions regarding Central Venous Pressure , quantities of fluid, the state of the kidney at the start, whether the kidney perfused or did the kidney produce urine. I do not recall any

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discussions or comments made in relation to these issues during the operation and do not recall the state of the kidney before or during the operation. I also do not recall any discussions regarding these matters in the days or weeks after the operation. I have been shown page 058 – 007 – 020 entitled swab count. This is a proforma which we used to list equipment brought into the operating theatre either at the start or during the course of the operation. It is also used to record that the proper checks are done during the four stages of closing the operation. I have signed this form at the bottom; this is the only record I made in relation to that operation.

S. M. Popplestone

Certified to be a true copy of an original signed document.

SWAB COUNT

OPERATION

left
Renal Transplant

DATE: *21-11-45*

THEATRE: *II*

SURGEON: *M*

SCRUBBED NURSE:

SN Popplestone

SWABS:

Abdominal

18" x 18"

12" x 12"

9 x 9

4" x 4"

Raytec Swabs

2" x 2"

6" x 1"

6" x 4"

Lint Strips

Patties

Prostatic Packs

Packs:-

Purse Dissector Swabs:

15 + 15 + 15 + 15

8 loops x 26

Other Types:-

blade x 2

needles x 24

canula x 1

Tape:-

Suture Needles:-

Instrument:-

Drain Inserted:-

SWABS

INSTRUMENTS

SUTURE NEEDLES, ETC.

CORRECT

Scrubbed Nurse's Signature

Runner's Signature

Surgeon's Signature

058-007-020

THE ROYAL HOSPITALS

Belfast BT12 6BA