

Text of Proposed letter to Dr Koffman

Dear Doctor Koffman,

Re Adam Strain, died in Belfast In November 1995, aged 4 years.

Thank you for agreeing to assist the Police Service of Northern Ireland in regard to our investigation into the circumstances surrounding Adam's death. As arranged I will meet you at 0900 hours on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2006 at Guys and St Thomas Hospital, London.

1. At this meeting I will provide you with:
  - 1.1 A full copy of the medical notes regarding Adam's admission to the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children on 26 November 1995. You will note that in this operation Dr Keane was the lead surgeon, assisted by Dr Brown. Both were Consultants. Dr Taylor was the anaesthetist and a Consultant, assisted by Dr Montague, at that time not a Consultant.
  - 1.2 A full copy of the depositions made by relevant staff to the Inquest into Adam's death, together with expert reports to the Inquest and the Verdict.
  - 1.3 A copy of the post-mortem report.
  - 1.4 A copy of the documents accompanying the donor kidney.
  - 1.5 A statement from Adam's mother consenting to experts such as yourself assisting police.
  - 1.6 A statement from Adam's mother, which outlines her experience of the day of the operation.
  - 1.7 Sight of the original clinical notes, but I will not be able to leave those with you. If there are other documents in these, which are not included in the copy that I will have prepared, then copies of these additional documents can be made available to you.
2. It is our request that you assist us as follows:
  - 2.1 By examining the documents provided so that you are aware of Adam's historic medical problems, the reason he was admitted for transplant and by satisfying yourself as far as possible as to his medical condition on the day of transplant.
    - 2.2 By advising police on the professional practice expected of surgeons in respect of their preparation for this operation.
      - 2.2.1 By advising police if the preparation demonstrated by Dr Keane and Dr Brown for this operation was in line with professional standards.
    - 2.3 By advising police on the responsibilities of the surgeons throughout the operation. In particular:
      - 2.3.1 The responsibilities of Dr Keane, as the lead surgeon.
      - 2.3.2 The responsibilities of Dr Brown, as the assisting surgeon and in particular how these differed from those of Doctor Keane, if at all.
      - 2.3.3 The responsibilities of the surgeons in respect of their relationship to the anaesthetists. We do not ask you to comment on the duties of the anaesthetists during the operation except insofar as they relate to the duties of the surgeons.

- 2.3.4 Is it true that 'the surgeons are in charge of the operating theatre and should not commence the operation unless they are satisfied that the patient is fit to be operated upon.' In this respect is the surgeon at fault if the operation commences without blood electrolytes having been tested, even though that is a task for the anaesthetists?
- 2.4 By advising police how an operation to transplant into a 4-year-old child a kidney of a 16-year-old should have been undertaken. In particular please advise on:
- 2.4.1 Where Adam should have been opened.
- 2.4.2 Where the donor kidney should have been placed.
- 2.4.3 Where the vessel anastomoses should have been made.
- 2.5 By advising police on how this operation was undertaken, and in particular:
- 2.5.1 As to any discrepancy between the procedures expected to have been followed and those actually followed, and where there is a divergence, your opinion as to any reason for it.
- 2.5.2 If it is true that in this case Adam should have been opened centrally, that the kidney should have been sited inside the peritoneum behind the right ascending colon and that the vessels should have been attached directly to the dorsal aorta and the vena cava?
- 2.5.3 As to the failure to record urine output.
- 2.5.4 As to the difficulties encountered in the operation as a result of the previous surgery.
- 2.5.5 As to any negligence you discover, and its severity.
- 2.5.6 By advising police on the documentation which you expect to find after such an operation and how this compares to the records which were made by the surgeons.
- 2.5.7 If it is true that the surgeon should have recorded many details which cannot be found in the operation record, such as the time the kidney was removed from the ice, the time the anastomoses were made, the time the clamps were removed, and the time taken for perfusion? If these are omissions, do they have a bearing on the welfare of the patient, and if so, is the omission negligent?
- 2.6 By advising police as to the acceptability of two surgeons undertaking this operation, neither of whom had done a paediatric renal transplant before.
3. Please outline in general terms the time you expect such an operation would take, and the times required for significant points to be reached in the operation.
4. Please indicate significant observations which you would make in such an operation, particularly in regard to kidney colour, perfusion, and urine production. What is your opinion on the records made by the surgeons regarding these matters, both in the clinical notes and in their statements since? What is your opinion of the situation whereby one surgeon states the kidney produced urine and the other stated it did not?
5. Please highlight to police any other matters which you believe are relevant to their investigation.

Yours sincerely

William R Cross  
DSgt