

Statement re: Rachael Ferguson Deceased

I Mr Ragai Reda Makar, MSc FRCS (Glasg) was employed as a Surgical SHO in Altnagelvin Hospital on 7th June 2001.

Rachael Ferguson was referred for surgical assessment by the Accident and Emergency SHO on 7th June 2001, at approximately 8.00 p.m., because of sudden onset of increasing abdominal pain suggestive of acute appendicitis. She had been given a cyclomorph injection for the pain.

I assessed Rachael's clinical picture which was a few hours history of periumbilical pain shifting to the right iliac fossa with pain pointing at McBurney's point associated with tenderness and guarding and mild rebound tenderness without respiratory symptoms. The symptoms were suggestive of acute appendicitis /obstructive appendix.

Her blood tests were within normal limits including serum sodium level.

I obtained informed consent for appendectomy after explaining the operation; the risks involved with surgery including general anaesthesia and the possibility of having normal appendix versus the risks of waiting and the possibility of morbidity from acute appendicitis in children.

She was admitted to Ward 6 with the diagnosis of acute appendicitis/obstructive appendix for appendectomy.

She was kept fasting and started on IV fluids to maintain adequate hydration prior to surgery. A Hartman's solution was first prescribed by myself at A&E. I was asked by Staff Nurse Noble, Nurse in Charge Ward 6 to change the prescription to Solution 18 in accordance with Ward protocol. This was the recommended solution at that time for children in the Paediatric Ward. The rate was set at 80ml/hour during the preoperative period, when she received 60ml in total.

I started the operation at approximately 11.40 p.m. She had a straightforward standard appendectomy operation, which revealed an obstructive appendix (faecolith). This was sent for histopathology examination.

I prescribed Metronidazol 500mg suppository TID as post-operative prophylaxis.

In the morning shortly after 9.00.a.m I met Rachael's father on the Ward and I explained the operative findings to him. I was not involved in her post operative management.

Ragai Reda Makar
Mr Ragai Reda Makar, MSc FRCS(Glasg)
Date 16th January 2002