

6<sup>th</sup> February 2003, 10.30am-1.00pm

Evidence of Dr. Vijay Kumar Gund

The Doctor read out his deposition. Under questioning from the Coroner, he confirmed that he had not been dealing with Raychel before the 7<sup>th</sup> of June, and did not see her again after surgery. He described the surgery as uneventful. Mr. Leckey referred to the previous day's discussion on naso-gastric tubes, Dr. Gund said it would not be his normal practice in this type of surgery.

Under cross-examination from Mr. Foster Dr. Gund said he left the fluid prescription to those on the ward and that it would be normal for a patient to be prescribed fluids, usually normal saline if a drug patient. The Coroner asked if there was a difference between adult and child patients, Dr. Gund said an adult would be prescribed Hartman's solution and normal saline. Mr. Foster continued to ask about the protocol, but Mr. Leckey was of the view that Dr. Gund could not take the matter much further as he did not create the protocol. The Doctor was asked about his knowledge of the protocol, he replied that he was informed by the nurses. If the nurses needed further guidance they would be able to ask the available paediatrician.

Under questioning from Mr. McAllinden the Doctor confirmed he was aware of the nature of the IV treatment and the use of solution 18, that that was discontinued by the patient's arrival in theatre, and that solutions administered in surgery were stopped before transfer to the ward. He reconfirmed that the nurses would have been able to refer concerns to the paediatrician.

Evidence of Dr. Clare Jamison

Dr. Jamison read her deposition aloud. Mr. Leckey asked for an explanation of cricoid pressure, which she explained was pressure administered by an assistant on the cartilage around the oesophagus. She confirmed the person described in her deposition as 'first on call' was Dr. Gund. Dr. Jamison also confirmed that she did not



remain in theatre, and again that prescription of fluids was left to the paediatrician on the ward, though it could also be dealt with by the senior house officer. It was put to her that Dr. Gund said this was for the Doctor on the ward. Dr. Jamison felt it was for the discretion of the team dealing with the patient, but in any event she was not part of that team.

Mr. Foster asked about the change of an entry on page 16 of the records. The Doctor explained that this was a corrective note she had been asked to make by a senior colleague Dr. Nesbitt. She stated she had not been asked to do this before.

Mr. McAlinden questioned the Doctor whether she was clear about an entry on the 13<sup>th</sup> (which I take to be about the amount of Hartman's solution, but cannot be sure, not having a copy of the records). She confirmed that the solution was contained in a one-litre bag marked at 100ml intervals. Dr. Jamison described the use of naso-gastric tubing as very uncommon unless problems were expected afterwards. Mr. Leckey enquired that in view of what had occurred in Raychel's case whether that practice should be reviewed. Dr. Jamison was of the view that it would not be unusual in cases of major bowel surgery.

~~Dr. Makar had been envisioned by the Coroner as the next witness, but his attendance had not been secured by Altnagelvin Trust. The Coroner's Office had received no reply from him either. It appeared he was in England. There was some discussion as to what steps were taken, as it seemed he had not replied to either a witness summons or letter requesting his attendance. While this was checked it was agreed that Dr. Trainor could be taken next instead. It later transpired that the Doctor was on two weeks leave.~~

#### Evidence of Dr. Bernie Trainor

~~The Doctor read her deposition. Under questioning from the Coroner, she confirmed that Dr. McCord was her Consultant, and that her first contact with Raychel was at the request of Dr. Johnston. She outlined that the surgical team would be expected to generally look after their own surgical patients, she being responsible for medical patients. The Doctor was said she was unsure whether Dr. McCord was involved with the surgical team, but that the JHO was on the surgical team. She described that the~~