

The **ROYAL**
HOSPITALS

THE ROYAL BELFAST HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

19th February 1996

Bohy

Ms.D.Strain

Dear Debbie

Thank you for your letter. It was good of you to write when you find it so hard to talk about these things. I know you need to understand everything which happened with Adam. I understand it is difficult for you to talk about his operation when you feel an avoidable complication may have happened. I know how much Adam meant to you and I know you are heartbroken at losing him. I cannot say how sorry I am we lost him. We all miss him too especially when there is a dialysis clinic.

After Adam came out of Theatre and we knew his sodium was low we realised this was dilutional and set about removing fluid. Tragically we could not solve the problem because of the development of brain swelling. Once the cause of Adam's death is established it is right we should try and work out why. We want to avoid anything like this happening again. There is no difference between the way you and I feel about this. We both know there are many more children needing a transplant operation and I want them and their parents to have confidence that we do the best we can for each of them. It is important we learn anything we can from Adam's death to make the operation safer for them. Mr. Leckey has done all he can to make sure this is the case and so will I.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness towards the other renal children in contributing to the renal work. Never feel anything you say to me is out of place or spiteful. We have known each other a long time and been through too much with Adam for me not to understand how you feel.

I will phone you again soon.

Yours sincerely

MAURICE SAVAGE

PATRON: HRH The Duchess of Kent
The Royal Victoria Hospital
The Royal Maternity Hospital
The Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children

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