

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF NORFOLK

DENISE DAVIS,	I	
Plaintiff,	I	
	I	
v.	I	Case No. CL07-4320
	I	
CANDICE A. GEARY, M.D.,	I	
VIRGINIA CENTER FOR WOMEN	I	
and	I	
MID-ATLANTIC WOMEN'S CARE, PLC,	I	
Defendants.	I	
	I	

DEPOSITION OF JAMES H. CANE, M.D.

July 14, 2009
Richmond, Virginia
Registered Professional Reporters
P. O. Box 9349
Richmond, Virginia 23227
Reported by: Dorothy J. Lewis, CCR
Certification No. 0315017

1 Deposition of JAMES H. CANE, M.D., taken by
2 and before Dorothy J. Lewis, CCR, Notary Public in and for
3 the Commonwealth of Virginia at large, pursuant to Rule 4:5
4 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, and Notice
5 to Take Deposition; commencing at 3:05 p.m., July 14, 2009,
6 at the medical offices of James H. Cane, M.D., 8266 Atlee
7 Road, Medical Office Building II, Suite 215, Mechanicsville,
8 Virginia.

9

10 Appearances:

11

12 SHAPIRO, COOPER, LEWIS & APPLETON, PC
13 By: JAMES C. LEWIS, ESQ.
 attorney, of counsel for Plaintiff

14

15 THE OAST LAW FIRM
16 By: TAYLOR D. BOONE, ESQ.
 attorney, of counsel for Defendant

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I N D E X

DEPONENT

JAMES H. CANE, M.D.

Examination by: Page

Direct - Mr. Lewis 4

E X H I B I T S

Dr. Cane Description Page

1 Curriculum vitae 4

2 Defendants' designation
of expert witnesses 4

3 Plate 285 86

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(Marked Dr. Cane Exhibit Nos. 1, 2.)

JAMES H. CANE, M.D.

was sworn and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. LEWIS:

Q Doctor, for the record, would you state your full name and your professional address, please.

A I am James Howard Cane, C-A-N-E, and my address is 8266 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, Virginia, and, of course, it's Medical Office Building Number II, Suite 215.

Q And you are an obstetrician/gynecologist?

A That is correct.

Q And you have been designated by Dr. Geary's attorneys in the Denise Davis case as an expert obstetrician/gynecologist, who is prepared to render opinion testimony at the trial of this matter?

A That is correct.

Q And you have been deposed before?

A That is correct.

Q All right. So I'm not going to bore you with all the rules. If I ask you a question that doesn't make sense because I don't know what I'm

1 talking about, just tell me. I take no pride in
2 authorship of my questions. Fair enough?

3 A Fair enough.

4 Q Take a look for me, sir, at your
5 deposition exhibit No. 1. This was provided to me by
6 Mr. Boone. Just confirm for me that it is reasonably
7 accurate and relatively current.

8 A It is relatively current.

9 Q Any corrections?

10 A None.

11 Q You can hold onto it, Doctor. I'm going
12 to ask you some questions about it.

13 A Okay.

14 Q You may find it beneficial to have it in
15 your hand.

16 On page number 1 there's a heading over on
17 the left-hand side entitled "education," and for the
18 next number of pages, two actually, there are listed
19 by date and provider, it looks like some, something
20 that I would consider continuing medical education
21 sort of stuff?

22 A That's correct.

23 Q And that's what this is intended to --

24 A That's right.

25 Q -- tell the reader?

1 **On page 3, you have admitting privileges**
2 **at Henrico Doctor's Hospital?**

3 A Actually, I didn't renew those, because
4 now I'm employed by the hospital here. I just figured
5 I didn't want to run around.

6 **Q The "hospital here" being --**

7 A Memorial Regional. I didn't want to run
8 all over town anymore, so I don't need to do that.

9 **Q So you're not admitting patients to any**
10 **hospitals other than to this one now?**

11 A That is correct.

12 **Q All right. What is the distinction,**
13 **Doctor, between being certified by the American Board**
14 **of Obstetrics and Gynecology and being a fellow of**
15 **that organization?**

16 A Okay. The way it is set up is that when
17 you finish your residency, first you must take a
18 written exam after finishing your residency, and you
19 have to be certified to take that exam by your
20 chairman, because he can stop you if you don't --
21 that's part one.

22 After he certifies you to take that exam
23 and you take it and pass it, you are now considered
24 board eligible. That's part one.

25 Once you're a board eligible, most doctors

1 will either become an academician or they go into
2 private practice, but either way you have to wait two
3 years, and during that two-year time period, you
4 accumulate a fair number of cases to submit to the
5 American College, or the American Boards, I should
6 say, and you must put that in some nice reasonable
7 format -- a standard format, in fact, that they
8 prescribe for you -- and you submit all those cases
9 summarized to the American Board, and they -- the
10 exams are usually in November for the east coast in
11 Chicago, and you do that six months before the exam,
12 and then you go to Chicago and you have an oral exam
13 by numerous guys in a hotel room, and they interrogate
14 you and intimidate you, and then --

15 **Q Yes, sir, I understand that to be true.**

16 A -- and then after that is done, if you
17 pass that, you are now board certified. You are no
18 longer board eligible, and you are allowed to take
19 that exam no more than three times. And if you take
20 it three times and don't pass it, you've got to start
21 over again.

22 **Q How many times did you take it before you**
23 **passed it?**

24 A I passed it the first time.

25 **Q Okay.**

1 A Okay. So -- I was very fortunate. Thank
2 God I passed it the first time. So I'm board
3 certified.

4 Now, once you become board certified, it's
5 an honor to become a Fellow of the American College,
6 FACOG, but you don't -- it's not guaranteed.

7 In order to become a Fellow of the
8 American College, you submit your paperwork saying, "I
9 am now board certified, and I'd like to become a
10 fellow of the American College," and they have a
11 ceremony like at graduation, you know, with cap and
12 gown and all that stuff.

13 If one person -- and they put it in the
14 Green journal that you are applying to become a
15 fellow -- if one person who is already a fellow sees
16 that you are applying and knows you and wants to
17 indict you for moral turpitude or anything that is a
18 black mark, they can blackball you. And they write a
19 letter saying that "Jim Cane cannot be a fellow, in my
20 opinion, for these reasons," you won't ever become a
21 Fellow. So it's an honor to become a fellow.

22 **Q Is there a minimum amount of time that you**
23 **have to be board certified before you're eligible to**
24 **become a fellow?**

25 A If I remember correctly, it's -- they do

1 it within a year. It's usually in the summer, so I
2 think it's the summer following that November. It's
3 pretty quick.

4 Like you become board certified on the
5 east coast in November if you pass, and usually around
6 June or so, like the usual graduations for the
7 colleges, so it's June, about six months later, I
8 guess. You're entitled to go to the ceremony and all
9 that. I didn't do that, because I was in private
10 practice at that time.

11 **Q Trying to make a living.**

12 A Right. They send you the paperwork saying
13 you're a fellow -- right? -- and they send you a nice
14 certificate, which is considered a honor.

15 **Q On page 9 of your Exhibit 1, Doctor,**
16 **"milestones," it says you performed the first**
17 **laparoscopically-assisted vaginal hysterectomy in the**
18 **State of Virginia in May of 1990?**

19 A That's correct.

20 **Q How do you know you were the first one?**

21 A Well, first of all, it was publicized on
22 TV when I did the first one. Publicized on TV, in the
23 newspaper, and, you know, it pretty -- you know, if
24 anybody had done it before, they would have put theirs
25 on TV. It was on the news.

1 So, you have -- in medicine when you are
2 the first, it's usually a media hit, and so you know
3 it's going to be first, because it's released within a
4 week or so.

5 **Q And so --**

6 A If anyone said they've done it first,
7 they're going to refute that.

8 **Q Then the same with the first laparoscopic**
9 **supracervical hysterectomy?**

10 A Right. That was in central Virginia. The
11 laparoscopic was in northern Virginia. And the first
12 one done in the world was by Dr. Harry Reich, in 1989.
13 Harry Reich, R-E-I-C-H. He did the first one, the
14 first laparoscopic hysterectomy in the world.

15 **Q I take it from page 10 of exhibit 1, that**
16 **you have donated a considerable amount of assets to**
17 **St. Catherine's?**

18 A Don't remind me.

19 **Q Okay. I'm sorry. I couldn't help it.**

20 A Did your kids go there?

21 **Q No, my niece and my nephew went there.**

22 A My two daughters went there, so you know
23 the deal there.

24 **Q I do. All too well.**

25 **Doctor, what professional organizations do**

1 **you belong to?**

2 A Richmond Academy of Medicine. I used to
3 belong to the American Medical Association, but a lot
4 of us doctors are not enamored with the American
5 Medical Association anymore, so we're kind of backing
6 away from them. They're not doing much for us. I'm a
7 member of AAGL.

8 **Q What's that?**

9 A It's the American Association for
10 Gynecologic Laparoscopy.

11 **Q Okay. How about the Society of**
12 **Laparoscopic Surgeons?**

13 A No, I'm not. It's not that I didn't want
14 to be a member. It's just that it becomes very
15 expensive to be a member of all of those. Membership
16 is between 3- to \$600 a year.

17 **Q Are you familiar with the Society of**
18 **Laparoscopic Surgeons?**

19 A Yes, I am.

20 **Q Have you ever been a member?**

21 A No.

22 **Q Do you subscribe to or read any of its**
23 **publications or periodicals?**

24 A Sometimes, yes.

25 **Q Do you know a Dr. Paul Wetter?**

1 A I've heard the name.

2 Q Tell me what you've heard about him.

3 A I don't know much about him. Like I said,
4 I've heard the name.

5 Q Do you understand him to be an
6 endoscopist?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Are you familiar with a textbook he edited
9 entitled, Prevention and Management of
10 Laparoendoscopic and Surgical Complications?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Have you read it?

13 A No.

14 Q Do you consider it to be a reliable
15 authority in the field of laparoscopic surgical
16 procedures?

17 A Well, I can't comment on it really,
18 because I've not read it.

19 Q What publications, texts, periodicals or
20 other writings, Doctor, do you consider to be
21 authoritative in the field of gynecologic laparoscopy
22 procedures?

23 A I like to read the current journals,
24 and --

25 Q Give me some names.

1 A The Green Journal --

2 MR. BOONE: Journals that he likes to read

3 or --

4 MR. LEWIS: No, journals that you

5 consider --

6 MR. BOONE: Journals that you consider a

7 reliable authority --

8 MR. LEWIS: No, I didn't say "reliable."

9 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

10 **Q No, journals that you consider**

11 **authoritative.**

12 A Oh, okay. I got you. Well, the journals

13 that are provided by AAGL. I like -- my, my -- the

14 one that I like the most, though, I like personally

15 the most, OB GYN Management.

16 **Q That's the name of the periodical?**

17 A Yes.

18 **Q Who is it published by, if you can**

19 **remember?**

20 A I can't remember. I used to get the hard

21 copy, which you get online. I hate storing

22 paperwork --

23 **Q These days everyone does.**

24 A -- and so I can get online and the

25 articles that I want to search, I can find them, and

1 they're excellent, because they're by the same guys
2 that you were talking about. Any of the journals that
3 you're talking about, those same guys will submit
4 articles for that journal --

5 **Q Yes, sir.**

6 **A -- paper journals.**

7 **Q Same question, only I'm going to change**
8 **the word "authoritative" to the word "reliable." Any**
9 **distinction between those two in your view when it**
10 **comes to literature in your field of specialty?**

11 **A We're getting pretty picky, I would think.**

12 **Q I don't disagree with you, but judges and**
13 **lawyers tend to get picky.**

14 **A I've never made the distinction.**

15 **Q Okay. Doctor, as I understand it, you are**
16 **prepared to comment on what you believe to be the**
17 **applicable standard of care in this case and whether**
18 **or not it was complied with. Do I understand that**
19 **correctly?**

20 **A That is correct.**

21 **Q What I would like for you to do, sir, is**
22 **to define the phrase, "applicable standard of care" as**
23 **you understand it.**

24 **A As I understand it, it is the care that**
25 **would be rendered by a specialist in the same field as**

1 the defendant, and would be considered by his peers in
2 that region to be administering reasonable and prudent
3 care in a particular situation or in every situation
4 that was applicable.

5 **Q Doctor, can you tell me when you first**
6 **began reviewing medical charts for individuals who are**
7 **not your patient? That includes insurance companies,**
8 **defense lawyers, plaintiff lawyers, risk managers, I**
9 **don't care. Just any chart review for someone not**
10 **your patient. When did you start doing that?**

11 A Maybe about 10 to 12 years ago.

12 **Q And how did that come about?**

13 A I was recommended by one of my peers, and
14 I was contacted.

15 **Q By whom?**

16 A At that time that was an individual at St.
17 Paul. He is no longer with them. I forget his name.

18 **Q Most people aren't any longer with St.**
19 **Paul.**

20 **But it was an employee of an insurance**
21 **company that wrote liability coverage for healthcare**
22 **providers?**

23 A Absolutely correct.

24 **Q What did he ask you to do?**

25 A To -- he asked me would I be willing to

1 review the medical records of a case, litigation was
2 involved, and I said yes, I would, and the lawyer
3 contacted me. I guess it was a lawyer on retainer for
4 St. Paul, and that is how I got started.

5 **Q Any way for you to estimate for me,**
6 **Doctor, the number of charts you have reviewed in that**
7 **10 to 12 years? First of all, do you keep track of**
8 **them?**

9 A I don't keep track of them.

10 **Q Okay. Can you estimate for me?**

11 A I would estimate, let's be conservative,
12 maybe 30 --

13 **Q In 10 to 12 years?**

14 A -- or 40.

15 **Q Okay. Roughly three a year?**

16 A Yes. Uh-huh.

17 **Q Give or take.**

18 A Give or take?

19 **Q And of the 30 or 40 you reviewed, how many**
20 **have been on behalf of a healthcare provider versus on**
21 **behalf of a patient who was unhappy with his or her**
22 **healthcare provider?**

23 A All of them on behalf of the healthcare
24 provider.

25 **Q Never -- if a plaintiff lawyer called you**

1 up today and said, "Dr. Cane, I would like for you to
2 take a look at a chart involving a client of mine
3 where an obstetrician gynecologist did X, Y, Z, and we
4 don't think that was appropriate, would you do it?

5 A I would look at it.

6 Q And is there any reason why you've never
7 been asked to look at a plaintiff's case in 10 to 12
8 years?

9 A I guess because they knew I did all
10 defendant work. I don't know.

11 Q I like experts who do nothing more than
12 defenses work.

13 A You would like that?

14 Q I would. I would think you would have
15 tremendous credibility for a plaintiff because you've
16 never testified for one, but that -- we digress. Let
17 me ask you this: I take it, then, from that answer,
18 Dr. Cane, that you have never testified at deposition
19 or trial on behalf of a plaintiff?

20 A That is correct.

21 Q Can you remember or estimate for me the
22 number of depositions you've given in the 10- to
23 12-year period?

24 A Hmm. I would say less than 10.

25 Q Of the 30 to 40 files that you have

1 reviewed over the 10 to 12 years that you've been
2 doing this, Dr. Cane, have you ever concluded that the
3 doctor whose chart you were reviewing had violated the
4 applicable standard of care?

5 A Maybe one.

6 Q One out of 30 to 40?

7 A Right.

8 THE COURT REPORTER: Excuse me, sir. Did
9 you make an objection?

10 MR. LEWIS: He did.

11 BY MR. LEWIS:

12 Q How many times have you actually gone to a
13 courthouse, Dr. Cane, and sat down in front of a jury
14 and shared your views with them?

15 A I think somewhere around four times, four
16 or five times.

17 Q All of them Virginia cases?

18 A Well, one case was in Delaware, but that
19 was a deposition.

20 Q All the other ones have been in Virginia?

21 A That's correct, uh-huh.

22 Q Have you ever failed to qualify as an
23 expert?

24 A No.

25 Q How much do you charge to review medical

1 **charts of someone who is not your patient, Dr. Cane?**

2 A I have to pull it off my computer, but I
3 think, without looking at it -- I have it stored -- I
4 think it's 300 an hour.

5 **Q To review charts?**

6 A Yes.

7 **Q How about to give deposition testimony?**

8 A If you want me to go get it, I can go get
9 it.

10 **Q If you would be more comfortable doing**
11 **that, I'm happy to have you.**

12 A Because I don't want to give you
13 misinformation.

14 **Q I don't either. Let's take a break.**

15 (Recess from 3:21 p.m. to 3:23 p.m.)

16 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

17 **Q Dr. Cane, you have kindly retrieved a fee**
18 **schedule for me, and it says you charge \$300 an hour**
19 **for review of medical records, deposition transcripts,**
20 **and completion of a report, and you charge \$750 an**
21 **hour for deposition testimony, correct?**

22 A Correct.

23 **Q And fee for live trial appearance is**
24 **\$4,000. Is that per day?**

25 A Correct.

1 **Q And is that inclusive of travel?**

2 A Correct. I've never had to be -- appear
3 any more than one day, though.

4 **Q But that, that \$4,000 charge assumes that**
5 **you're only going to be taken away from your medical**
6 **practice for one business day?**

7 A That is correct.

8 **Q Okay. Doctor, is there any way for you to**
9 **tell me how many hours you have spent on the Denise**
10 **Davis file prior to today -- strike that.**

11 **Prior to preparing for today, i.e., how**
12 **many hours did you spend formulating the opinions that**
13 **you have in this case?**

14 A Do you want me to guess or give you a
15 actual?

16 **Q I want an actual figure, if you can do it.**

17 MR. BOONE: I mean, if he can do it within
18 a timely manner.

19 THE DEPONENT: I've got to go back to the
20 computer. I don't want to waste your time.

21 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

22 **Q Well, if it's as quick as this one, go**
23 **ahead.**

24 A It won't be as quick as this one.

25 **Q All right. How long will it take?**

1 A 10 or 15 minutes.

2 Q Can you get a staff member to do it?

3 A No, because I don't give them access to
4 that kind of information.

5 Q Okay. Then guesstimate for me.

6 A Okay.

7 Q If we have time at the end without
8 infringing on Mr. Boone's schedule, we'll get you to
9 run it for me.

10 MR. BOONE: Thank you.

11 MR. LEWIS: You're welcome.

12 A Let me say somewhere between 10, 15 hours.
13 I'm guessing.

14 BY MR. LEWIS:

15 Q And could you tell me what it is you did
16 for that 10 or 15 hours?

17 A I read through depositions.

18 Q Whose?

19 A Dr. Rahman, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Davis, the
20 record, the case records. I'm trying to remember, was
21 it Dr. Geary? I don't think Dr. Geary was deposed,
22 was she?

23 Q Dr. Geary was deposed. Did you read her
24 deposition?

25 A I read Dr. Geary's deposition. I read all

1 the depositions. And then -- okay. The next thing
2 was all the case work, chronology, case work
3 chronologies.

4 **Q Chronologies? Did you prepare those**
5 **chronologies or did someone else prepare them for you?**

6 A They were prepared for me.

7 **Q Who prepared them?**

8 A It was a summarization.

9 **Q The lawyers?**

10 MR. BOONE: If you don't know, you can
11 just say, "I don't know."

12 THE DEPONENT: I don't know the name of
13 the person.

14 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

15 **Q Well, was it affiliated with the law firm**
16 **that has hired you in this case?**

17 A Yes.

18 **Q Did you rely on the chronology?**

19 A No. I had already read my information. I
20 didn't rely on chronology.

21 **Q And I know that this is going to sound**
22 **like a memory quiz, but I'm going to ask the**
23 **questions, and if you can't answer them, just say,**
24 **"I'm sorry, Mr. Lewis, I can't answer them."**

25 A Sure.

1 **Q** Do you remember looking at the records
2 from this lady's October, 2001, hospitalization at
3 Chesapeake General?

4 A Is that the one where she had the
5 laparoscopy?

6 **Q** She had a laparoscopy with lysis of
7 adhesions.

8 A Yes, I did.

9 **Q** Did you look at the records from
10 September, 2002, hospitalization at Chesapeake
11 General?

12 A Is that the one with the hysterectomy?

13 **Q** Your memory is very good. Yes?

14 A Yes.

15 **Q** How about April of '03, Chesapeake
16 General?

17 A Yes. That's that one that was converted
18 to a laparotomy?

19 **Q** Yes, sir. And August of '04 -- strike
20 that. Yeah, August 29th -- August of '04.

21 MR. BOONE: Do you mean '04 or '05?

22 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

23 **Q** '05.

24 A Would you just tell me what was done.

25 **Q** I will tell you it was a diagnostic

1 **laparoscopy.**

2 A Yes, sir. Okay. I saw that.

3 Q **And, obviously, August of '05 you've read?**

4 A Right.

5 Q **And the subsequent hospitalization that**
6 **commenced 36 hours after the August 29th procedure?**

7 A That is correct.

8 Q **Have you reviewed the records of her**
9 **incarcerated ventral incisional hernia repair?**

10 A Correct.

11 Q **And have you read the records with respect**
12 **to her colon resection reversal?**

13 A Correct.

14 Q **Any other records that come to mind that**
15 **you've read?**

16 A I think you've covered everything.

17 Q **How about Dr. Geary's office chart? Did**
18 **you read that?**

19 A Correct.

20 Q **Have you ever testified in a case prior to**
21 **this one for Mrs. Oast or any members of her firm, and**
22 **that is Mr. Boone's partner?**

23 A Testified in a case?

24 Q **Strike that. Let me ask it a little more**
25 **broadly. Have you ever reviewed charts for her or any**

1 **member of her firm?**

2 A Yes.

3 **Q How many?**

4 A Maybe four.

5 **Q And how did you come to meet her?**

6 A I don't think I've met her.

7 **Q Never met her?**

8 A Never met her.

9 **Q Do you have any idea how she or her firm**
10 **came to find you?**

11 A It may have been through -- I'm going to
12 be honest with you. I don't know. I think with
13 Dr. Partridge.

14 **Q One of your colleagues?**

15 A One of my colleagues, that's correct.

16 **Q And you've looked at approximately four**
17 **files for her or members of her firm over the 10 to 12**
18 **years you've been doing this?**

19 A I think four to five, yes.

20 **Q In any of those four to five, have you**
21 **concluded that the physician whose chart you were**
22 **reviewing violated the appropriate standard of care?**

23 A No.

24 **Q In any of those four or five files, have**
25 **you testified at deposition?**

1 A Not so far.

2 Q Until today?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q And so I take it that you've never been to
5 court with Mrs. Oast or any members of her firm,
6 including Mr. Boone?

7 A Not to my recollection. This is my first
8 time meeting Mr. Boone, actually.

9 Q It could be a pleasant experience.

10 A At least for me. I can't say the --

11 Q He's doing fine. I see that big smile on
12 his face. I'm not bothering him.

13 Doctor, do you keep track of how much
14 money you make reviewing files for individuals who are
15 not your patients?

16 A No.

17 Q Is this the only case you've done for a
18 lawyer or an insurance company in 2009?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Doctor, how many claims have been filed
21 against you in which it was alleged that you failed to
22 comply with the appropriate standard of care?

23 A Maybe about four in 30 years. Actually in
24 34 years, including residency.

25 Q How many of those cases went to lawsuit?

1 **By that I mean you actually got sued?**

2 A One, and we won. I won that one.

3 **Q You won that case?**

4 A I won that case.

5 **Q All right. Who was your lawyer?**

6 A Lynn Facella.

7 **Q What city?**

8 A Richmond.

9 **Q What firm is Lynn with?**

10 A I don't know. Do you know Lynn --

11 **Q He doesn't have to answer questions.**

12 **That's okay.**

13 MR. BOONE: If you don't know --

14 A She left the area.

15 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

16 **Q What city was it pending in? The city of**
17 **Richmond or the county of Henrico? If you won it, you**
18 **had to go to a courthouse.**

19 A Yeah, in Richmond.

20 **Q Downtown?**

21 A Yes.

22 **Q What year?**

23 A 2001.

24 **Q Who was the plaintiff?**

25 A You mean the attorney?

1 **Q No. Who was your, who was the patient who**
2 **sued you?**

3 A I can't remember. I think -- the last
4 name was Webb, I think.

5 **Q I would think you would remember that.**
6 **And it actually went to a jury verdict and you**
7 **prevailed?**

8 A I prevailed, yes, sir.

9 **Q Okay.**

10 A I think it was Kilduff and Emroch.

11 **Q Uh-huh. I know the firm.**

12 **You also, as I understand it, Doctor,**
13 **settled a claim in 2001?**

14 A No, that's the one we're talking about.

15 **Q Oh, I thought you just told me you won**
16 **that case?**

17 A Exactly. That's an error.

18 **Q It says here -- I'm looking at your web**
19 **page on the Virginia Department of Medicine**
20 **Practitioner's sheet --**

21 A I answered it.

22 **Q You did?**

23 A I'm the one that answered that.

24 **Q As I understand it, that's your entry.**

25 A I can bring -- I can print off the data.

1 I won that one.

2 **Q Okay.**

3 A Okay. The date must be wrong, 2001, for
4 this one. This is not the year. This is the correct
5 case, but not the year.

6 MR. BOONE: Maybe that's the last updated
7 one.

8 A As I read the information, this is
9 correct, but the date is wrong.

10 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

11 **Q Okay. But according to what you're**
12 **holding in your hand, that case didn't go to trial.**
13 **You and your attorney decided to settle.**

14 A What happened -- do you want a summary of
15 it?

16 **Q No, I'm just wondering why you told me a**
17 **few minutes ago you won that case --**

18 A Because --

19 **Q -- when, in fact, you voluntarily --**

20 A -- this is not the same --

21 **Q -- hold on -- when you voluntarily paid**
22 **your patient.**

23 A Because it's not the same case.

24 **Q Different case?**

25 A Different case.

1 **Q Okay. All right.**

2 A See, the case I'm talking about -- I gave
3 you the name of the patient.

4 **Q Yes, sir.**

5 A This one I remember pretty well. It was
6 Prince, Sonya Prince.

7 **Q And that's the case -- did you get sued in**
8 **that case, or was that settled, or was that filing of**
9 **a lawsuit?**

10 A What happened is it settled. The plastic
11 surgeon -- I did a hysterectomy. The plastic surgeon
12 did a abdominoplasty, liposuction, et cetera --

13 **Q Yes, sir.**

14 A -- after I finished my part. Then he put
15 a binder on her. She couldn't breathe. I was out of
16 the picture at that point.

17 **Q Yes, sir.**

18 A I did my part and left. Apparently she
19 had respiratory arrest. My understanding of it is
20 because the binder was too tight, and she was very
21 obese, and she couldn't breathe, and she stopped
22 breathing. So we, we -- everybody settled.

23 **Q And was that after a lawsuit was filed or**
24 **before?**

25 A I think it was actually -- yeah. It was

1 after.

2 Q And what was that patient's name?

3 A Sonya Prince.

4 Q And was that also pending in the Richmond
5 Circuit Court?

6 MR. BOONE: Asked and answered.

7 BY MR. LEWIS:

8 Q Do you remember who your lawyer was in
9 that case?

10 A Let me see. She is now in Norfolk. She
11 was with Bryan, Russell and Barnes is what I can tell
12 you.

13 Q But he's in Norfolk now?

14 A He left.

15 Q Oh, well, do you remember who the
16 plaintiff's lawyer was?

17 A No.

18 Q You can give me that back, Doctor.

19 A Uh-huh.

20 Q If you want a copy, I'll be glad to make a
21 copy for you.

22 Doctor, in your career, can you tell me
23 how many patients you have taken care of where you
24 performed five laparoscopic procedures in four years?

25 A Well, I can't think of any, but I have

1 performed the fifth laparoscopic procedure where the
2 patients have had multiple operations.

3 **Q Before they came to see you?**

4 A Exactly.

5 **Q But you've never --**

6 A I've done that numerous times.

7 **Q -- with any of yours?**

8 A Numerous times, but not where I have
9 performed. Usually my patients that -- I'm treating
10 endometriosis patients with chronic pain, usually it's
11 about every two years, because they don't want
12 hysterectomies. And I tell them the pain relief will
13 last them about two-and-a-half to -- a year-and-a-half
14 to two years, so usually they're coming back every two
15 years, year-and-a-half until they decide to have a
16 hysterectomy.

17 **Q And usually when they have the**
18 **hysterectomy, that puts an end to --**

19 A Yes, sir.

20 **Q -- the need for laparoscopic endometriosis**
21 **care?**

22 A Yes, sir.

23 **Q Okay.**

24 A Close follow-up thereafter, but usually
25 that's the end of the surgical part of it.

1 **Q Do you have an explanation for why that**
2 **wasn't the end of Mrs. Davis's need for additional**
3 **laparoscopic surgery?**

4 A I'm not clear on that, sir. Explain what
5 you mean by your question.

6 **Q Well, she had a hysterectomy in 2002 --**

7 A Okay. Now I can explain.

8 **Q -- but now we've got a laparoscopy in '03,**
9 **a laparoscopy in '04 and a laparoscopy in '05.**

10 A Her ovaries weren't removed. She wasn't
11 totally castrated.

12 **Q Okay. Would you -- go ahead.**

13 A And the other thing is that she developed
14 adhesions, and that, in and of itself, sometimes will
15 perpetuate that cycle, because --

16 **Q Right. Additional surgeries create**
17 **additional adhesions?**

18 A Yes, sir.

19 **Q Would you agree with me, Doctor, that the**
20 **more abdominal surgeries a patient has had, the more**
21 **that patient is at risk for the formation of abdominal**
22 **adhesions? I think you just answered it.**

23 A Well, I would like to clarify, if I may.

24 **Q Certainly.**

25 A We -- usually that's more pertinent to

1 laparotomies --

2 **Q Yes, sir.**

3 A -- and less pertinent to laparoscopies.

4 **Q But it is still, nonetheless, an accurate**
5 **comment, is it not?**

6 A Yes. Uh-huh.

7 **Q Would you also agree with me, Doctor, that**
8 **the formation and existence of abdominal adhesions**
9 **makes surgical visualization of the abdomen**
10 **laparoscopically more difficult than with a patient**
11 **who has had few or no prior abdominal surgeries and**
12 **subsequent adhesions?**

13 A Depending upon the extent of the
14 adhesions. Sometimes the adhesions don't make it much
15 more difficult unless they're extensive adhesions.

16 **Q How about Ms. Davis? Were her adhesions**
17 **extensive in 2004 and 2005?**

18 A Moderate.

19 **Q Well, they were so -- didn't Dr. Geary**
20 **have to convert to a laparotomy in '03, because she**
21 **couldn't get good visualization?**

22 A I guess I was using it based on my
23 judgment from my skills.

24 **Q Yes, sir.**

25 A But I would say moderate, from the reading

1 of the records.

2 **Q** **Doctor, other than Dr. Geary's deposition,**
3 **which you've told me you've read, and the operative**
4 **report that she dictated, do you have any other**
5 **information available to you to describe the surgical**
6 **technique that she used when she surgerized this**
7 **patient on August 29th of 2005?**

8 A No.

9 **Q** **And based upon her deposition and the**
10 **operative report, describe for me the surgical**
11 **procedure that she performed on that date.**

12 A Now, we're talking about that surgical
13 procedure, the last one, right?

14 **Q** **The October 29th, 2005.**

15 A Correct. She brought the patient in to do
16 a laparoscopic procedure. When she did the
17 laparoscopy, she noted adhesions, and she lysed
18 adhesions, which were in the right side of the pelvis,
19 and there was an area where there was a pseudocyst --
20 based upon ultrasound, they said it was a cyst, but it
21 turned out to be a pseudocyst involving the bowel and
22 the bladder, where the bowel was loculated over the
23 bladder, and it was consistent with a cyst -- and she
24 freed up those adhesions and irrigated copiously to
25 confirm that there was no evidence of any perforation,

1 and the fluid was clear, and she got out.

2 **Q Did she treat the pseudocyst?**

3 A Yes, she did.

4 **Q How did she do that?**

5 A By releasing the adhesions that were
6 involving the bladder.

7 **Q Did she drain it?**

8 A Well, you see, when she released the
9 adhesions, the fluid came out. She irrigated and
10 aspirated the fluid, so that took care of that.

11 **Q Okay. That's why you were calling it a**
12 **pseudocyst?**

13 A Right.

14 **Q Doctor, would you agree with me that when**
15 **performing a patient -- performing a procedure like**
16 **this one, once a scope has been successfully placed in**
17 **the patient's abdomen, that any further trocar**
18 **insertions should be done under direct visualization?**

19 A Correct.

20 **Q And do you have an opinion as to whether**
21 **Dr. Geary inserted the trocars into this patient on**
22 **the surgery in question under direct visualization?**

23 A Yes.

24 **Q What is your opinion?**

25 A She did it under direct visualization.

1 **Q What do you base that upon, sir?**

2 A Well, because she exceeded the standard of
3 care from point one. She -- typically most doctors
4 who are adherent to the standard of care will insert
5 the trocar -- do the Veress needle insertion first.
6 Then you insert the trocar. When you insert the
7 Veress needle to insufflate the abdomen, there is a
8 risk that you can perforate the bowel.

9 **Q Sure.**

10 A She didn't do that.

11 **Q Right.**

12 A She exceeded the standard of care because
13 she did the Hassan technique --

14 **Q I understand.**

15 A -- which is better than inserting a
16 trocar.

17 **Q Okay.**

18 A So then she visualized that, and then she
19 visualized the insertion of the other trocars.

20 **Q And where in her deposition or her**
21 **operative report does she say she inserted the**
22 **subsequent two trocars under direct visualization?**

23 A Well, it's -- it's not said, but it's just
24 not done that way, because once you do Hassan
25 technique and you put the trocar in, you're seeing --

1 no one that I've ever taught or seen inserts the
2 ancillary trocars blindly. It's just not done.

3 **Q It's not done intentionally?**

4 A No. It's not done. No one has ever done
5 that. It's just not done, because you've got a scope
6 in and you're looking in the belly. Why would you
7 close your eyes and put in other trocars? Well,
8 you're already looking -- once you put the scope in,
9 you can see --

10 **Q So you are basing --**

11 A -- trying to determine where to place the
12 scope, other trocars. That's how you determine how to
13 place them.

14 **Q You are basing your assumption that she**
15 **inserted the second and the third trocar or the first**
16 **and second trocar technically, although I guess the**
17 **Hassan is a trocar, it's just not a sharp one?**

18 A That's right.

19 **Q But you're basing that opinion upon your**
20 **experience that it's not done?**

21 A And --

22 MR. BOONE: Just let me make an objection
23 to the use of the word "assumption."

24 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

25 **Q Okay.**

1 A Based on what she described when she saw
2 adhesions, the only way she could have avoided
3 adhesions it to know where to place the trocars, and
4 she described where she placed them. She had to be
5 looking to describe -- to, to know where to place
6 them. She actually gave centimeters where she placed
7 them on the abdomen. She was looking to decide where
8 to place them. We all do it that way. That's the
9 standard of care.

10 **Q Do you know, Doctor, where Dr. Geary**
11 **placed the second trocar?**

12 A It's clearly stated. I don't want to
13 misquote it. In the operative report she actually
14 tells you centimeters where she placed them.

15 **Q How about the third one?**

16 A She tells you where she placed that one,
17 too.

18 **Q What did she say?**

19 A If you -- I don't want to misquote, but I
20 can read the operative report.

21 **Q Okay. Confirm for me that the two-page**
22 **document that I'm now handing to you is her dictation**
23 **from the August 29th, 2005, operation.**

24 A Yes, is it.

25 **Q And would you read for me in that**

1 **dictation where she describes where she places the**
2 **third trocar.**

3 A Okay. What I like about what she says is,
4 she says, "A second port was put 5 centimeters up and
5 8 centimeters over on the left side." And then she
6 said, "Through these two ports" -- meaning this one
7 and the other one -- she was able to use shears to
8 take down the adhesions, and once enough were taken
9 down in the lower, then she was able to see enough to
10 put in the third portal. So she did on direct
11 visualization.

12 Q **Did she describe for you in that document**
13 **where --**

14 A She doesn't --

15 Q **-- she placed the third port?**

16 A It says that she put this third port on
17 direct visualization. What I'm saying is she saw
18 herself putting that third port in.

19 Q **That's not my question. I want to know**
20 **where in this patient's abdomen that portal was**
21 **placed, if you can tell me from that document that you**
22 **have in your hand.**

23 A Well, it would have to be on the right
24 side, because she put the first one on the left side.

25 Q **Can you tell from reading that document?**

1 A Well, you don't put two on the same side.

2 Q That's not my question, Doctor. What I
3 want to know is if I walked Denise Davis in here today
4 fully clothed, would you be able to put your finger on
5 the scar where that third port was placed?

6 A If I saw the scar.

7 Q No, without seeing it, with just reading
8 that document?

9 A No.

10 Q And that document and her deposition are
11 the only two documents that we have to describe where
12 the third port was placed, correct?

13 A Correct.

14 Q And in her deposition, she wasn't asked
15 that question, was she?

16 A Okay.

17 Q Correct?

18 A No.

19 Q Okay. Thank you, sir.

20 A Uh-huh.

21 Q Allergies are killing me this week. I
22 don't know what's going on.

23 Doctor, from your training and
24 experience -- I think you told me you've been at this
25 business for 34 years?

1 A That's correct.

2 Q Is it possible for a gynecologist
3 performing laparoscopic surgery like Dr. Geary was
4 performing on this patient on the day in question, to
5 inflict an injury to that patient's bowel and not
6 realize that he or she has done so?

7 A If they don't go through certain steps to
8 ascertain whether they did or did not.

9 Q It is possible?

10 A If they don't go through certain steps to
11 ascertain if they did or did not.

12 Q Has it ever happened to you?

13 A No.

14 Q Have you ever inflicted a bowel injury on
15 a patient, period?

16 A Yes.

17 Q In what setting?

18 A Endometriosis.

19 Q Laparoscopic procedure?

20 A Yes.

21 Q You realized you did it when you did it or
22 before the surgery was over?

23 A And repaired it myself.

24 Q And repaired it yourself?

25 A Right.

1 **Q** **How many times has it happened to you?**

2 A Twice. It was extensive endometriosis.

3 **Q** **Did this patient have endometriosis?**

4 A I've never read that she had
5 endometriosis. That's the worst form of adhesions,
6 endometriosis is.

7 **Q** **Yes, sir. And would you agree with me,**
8 **Doctor, that it's possible for an obstetrician**
9 **gynecologist performing laparoscopic surgery like the**
10 **one -- strike that. I've asked you that already.**

11 **Tell me all the steps that you think the**
12 **standard of care requires the surgeon to go through to**
13 **confirm that he or she has not inflicted,**
14 **inadvertently inflicted a bowel injury on a patient**
15 **during a procedure -- and we can speed this up some,**
16 **Doctor, if you and I can agree that all I'm here to**
17 **talk about is OB-GYNs doing laparoscopies, so I don't**
18 **have to keep saying all that.**

19 A Sure.

20 **Q** **Okay. What are all the steps that, that a**
21 **surgeon needs to go through to ensure that he or she**
22 **hadn't inflicted a bowel injury?**

23 A Direct visualization. Looking --

24 **Q** **Yes, sir.**

25 A -- in the bowel carefully. Irrigation,

1 and irrigation, to make sure that there is no
2 discoloration or seepage of usually greenish fluid or
3 feces into that clear fluid. And oftentimes depending
4 on the size of the perforation, bubbles, air bubbles.

5 **Q Spontaneously?**

6 A When you're moving the bowel around, you
7 can express it. Because -- not spontaneously, but
8 just irrigating and moving the bowel around, I guess
9 like, kind of a balloon. If I press the balloon, it's
10 going to make the air come out faster.

11 **Q Do you know Frank Botaglieri (phonetic)?**

12 A No.

13 **Q He testified in response to Mr. Boone's**
14 **questions last week -- was it last week?**

15 MR. BOONE: I think it was last week,
16 yeah. Or two weeks ago.

17 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

18 **Q That in his view, the only way to**
19 **definitively rule out a bowel injury -- and I'm taking**
20 **some poetic license with his opinion -- was to insert**
21 **a sigmoidoscope and put air into the bowel lumen.**

22 A I don't agree with that.

23 **Q You do not? Have you ever done that?**

24 A No, I have not.

25 **Q Have you ever been taught that it is one**

1 **way to definitively rule out a bowel injury?**

2 A One way.

3 **Q Uh-huh.**

4 A It is one way, but not the only way.

5 **Q I understand. Is it your testimony,**

6 **Doctor, that in every bowel perforation done**

7 **laparoscopically, the operating surgeon is going to**

8 **see discolored fluid and/or bubbles and/or both?**

9 A Depending on how the perforation is,
10 because I have seen colleagues of mine perforate with
11 a trocar entry, and then they look around, and they're
12 looking into the lumen of the bowel.

13 **Q Right.**

14 A So there is nothing coming out that they
15 recognize sometimes, until they see some brown stuff
16 that they're actually in the lumen. There's nothing
17 coming out, because you're not supposed to take the
18 trocar out at that point, make an incision, leave the
19 trocar in --

20 **Q How would those individuals have inflicted**
21 **that injury?**

22 A By inserting the trocar blindly. In other
23 words, the first trocar --

24 **Q The, the --**

25 A -- instead of using the --

1 **Q The umbilicus trocar?**

2 A Instead of exceeding the standard of care
3 like Dr. Geary did, they will go in blindly -- and
4 this is what I teach not to do, going in blindly
5 through the umbilical first port and reinjure the
6 bowel, because the other ports you're going to see
7 yourself going in.

8 **Q Is it your testimony that other than an**
9 **instance where the trocar is essentially plugging the**
10 **perforation, other than in that instance, every bowel**
11 **perforation during one of these procedures is either**
12 **going to yield discolored fluid or bubbles or both?**

13 A Exactly. You have to look for it.

14 **Q Is that a "yes"?**

15 A Yes.

16 **Q Every one?**

17 A Every one. Some doctors don't find it,
18 because they don't do those things. They just get on
19 out. Dr. Geary was diligent. She irrigated, and she
20 irrigated until the fluid was, you know, as clear as
21 it could be, and she looked and waited, and she moved
22 the bowel around and nothing happened. She did
23 everything according to due diligence and the exact
24 same way that I would have done it.

25 **Q Would you agree with me, Doctor, that it**

1 is important for a surgeon performing this type of
2 patient -- performing this type of procedure on a
3 patient with a prior history of four abdominal
4 surgeries, to be sure that he or she has not inflicted
5 a bowel injury intraoperatively?

6 MR. BOONE: Objection.

7 A And that is what she did.

8 BY MR. LEWIS:

9 Q But it is your opinion that that is
10 important?

11 A It is very important.

12 MR. BOONE: Objection.

13 BY MR. LEWIS:

14 Q Doctor, take a look at what our court
15 reporter has marked as -- I don't know what I did with
16 it. Let me find it. There it is -- as Dr. Cane
17 Deposition Exhibit No. 2.

18 A Yes.

19 Q And if you would like to read through it,
20 feel free.

21 A Okay.

22 Q Have you seen that document before today?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Did you author it?

25 A This entire document?

1 **Q The part that attributes to you --**

2 A Oh, yes.

3 **Q -- your opinions? Did you write it?**

4 A No, I didn't write this.

5 **Q Who did?**

6 MR. BOONE: Jim, where's the -- oh, you
7 have it through page 4.

8 MR. LEWIS: I just have Dr. Cane's
9 designation.

10 A This is not something that I typed up.

11 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

12 **Q I understand that.**

13 A So if that's what you're asking.

14 **Q You didn't author it. Do you know who**
15 **did?**

16 A I would have to ask.

17 **Q You don't know who did it?**

18 A I don't.

19 **Q Were you asked to review it for accuracy**
20 **and completeness?**

21 A Yes.

22 **Q And in your opinion, Dr. Cane, does**
23 **Exhibit 2 accurately and completely state the opinions**
24 **that you hold in this case?**

25 A Yes.

1 Q And I'd invite you to read it again right
2 now if you would like to, just to make sure.

3 A Okay.

4 Q Have you had an opportunity to review it
5 in its entirety?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And does it contain all of the opinions
8 that you hold in this case?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Are any of the opinions that it -- meaning
11 "it" being Exhibit 2 -- are any of the opinions that
12 Exhibit 2 attributes to you not your opinions?

13 A No.

14 Q So everything in Exhibit 2 is accurate as
15 far as you're concerned?

16 A Correct.

17 Q All right. We'll start on page 2,
18 obviously, where your name appears. The first opinion
19 says, "Dr. Cane will testify that it was appropriate,
20 that it was appropriate for Dr. Geary to proceed with
21 a laparoscopy." Why do you hold that opinion?

22 A Well, she was having pain. It is a
23 superior procedure. It's minimally invasive. I mean,
24 it enhances and expedites the recovery of the patient.
25 I feel it's a safer procedure.

1 **Q** **So when you say it was appropriate for Dr.**
2 **Geary to proceed with laparoscopy, you mean as opposed**
3 **to laparotomy --**

4 A Correct.

5 **Q** **-- or nothing?**

6 A Well, both.

7 **Q** **Right. Maybe I should have said "and."**

8 **Next paragraph begins, Dr. Cane, with,**
9 **"Plaintiff suffered from a bowel injury, which is a**
10 **known complication of surgery." What does that mean,**
11 **that, from time to time people's bowels get injured**
12 **during surgery? Is there any more to it than that?**

13 A No.

14 **Q** **But this patient, in your opinion, didn't**
15 **suffer a bowel injury as a result of the surgery**
16 **itself, correct?**

17 A No, I'm sorry. I want to be more
18 specific.

19 **Q** **Yes, sir, please do.**

20 A The patient did not have a direct bowel
21 injury from Dr. Geary.

22 **Q** **Right.**

23 A I'm saying that an injury resulted from
24 situations that were existing in her pelvis.

25 **Q** **And you go on to note that the patient**

1 **accepted this risk of surgery and its known**
2 **complications including the risk of bowel perforation.**

3 **What are you relying upon in asserting that comment,**
4 **Doctor?**

5 A From the informed consent process that is
6 referred to in documents that I read.

7 Q You mean in Dr. Geary's deposition
8 testimony?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q She didn't have any informed consents
11 about perforation in her chart, did she?

12 A She said that she mentioned perforation as
13 a potential risk.

14 Q That wasn't my question. She didn't have
15 any informed consent documents in her chart that
16 talked about perforation as being a risk of this
17 procedure, did she?

18 A The consent form. It is implied in the
19 consent form.

20 Q Okay. We are parsing words.

21 A All right.

22 Q And is the answer to my question "yes" or
23 "no"?

24 A Yes.

25 Q She did have informed consent documents in

1 her chart that identified bowel perforation as a known
2 complication of this procedure?

3 A No.

4 Q No? Okay. All right.

5 Page 2, Doctor, I'm just moving on down
6 the page. "The perforation did not occur
7 intraoperatively, as the plaintiff would have been
8 sick sooner than she was." Explain that statement for
9 me, please, sir.

10 A Okay. With a perforation and leakage of
11 bowel contents, especially the colon, there is going
12 to be peritonitis within a few hours.

13 Q Are you aware, Dr. Cane, of any literature
14 that stands for the proposition that it can be as long
15 as 36 hours or more before the patient presents with
16 an acute abdomen?

17 A I'm going on 34 years of experience.

18 Q I understand, but I've done a records -- a
19 literature search in the case --

20 A But I'm going on what I know for a fact.

21 Q How many bowels have you perforated?

22 A I have been involved and seen doctors, and
23 I've been consulted, and I know what I've seen.

24 Q Okay. So your opinion is --

25 A I've been called in many times.

1 **Q** -- if a bowel perf occurs in the sigmoid
2 **colon, the patient is going to show symptoms in how**
3 **long? A couple hours?**

4 A No. Within four to six hours.

5 **Q** **Four to six hours?**

6 A And I would maintain, sir, even more so in
7 the sigmoid colon. Even more so as opposed to the
8 cecum, right colon. Even quicker.

9 **Q** **Well, let me ask you this: How long after**
10 **that surgery did Mrs. Davis begin feeling ill?**

11 A She didn't show signs of sepsis until 24
12 hours later.

13 **Q** **24 hours?**

14 A Yes.

15 **Q** **What were the signs?**

16 A Temperature elevation, increased platelet
17 count, increased pulse.

18 **Q** **How about just feeling bad? Abdominal**
19 **discomfort. How long after the surgery did those**
20 **symptoms start?**

21 A Well, a little abdominal discomfort is not
22 unusual after the surgery because of the incisions.

23 **Q** **It's also not unusual with a bowel**
24 **perforation, is it?**

25 A I mean, when you do laparoscopic surgery,

1 patients are going to have discomfort.

2 **Q Yes, sir, I know. But do you know how**
3 **long after this surgery Mrs. Davis first started**
4 **feeling ill?**

5 A She was feeling discomfort immediately
6 after the surgery.

7 **Q Well, how do we know when what she was**
8 **feeling immediately after the surgery becomes**
9 **secondary to a delayed bowel perforation? Do you**
10 **understand my question?**

11 A When she gets to the point where she is
12 getting distended, temperature elevation, increased
13 pulse, those things.

14 **Q Okay. And when did that start?**

15 A About 24 to 30 hours.

16 **Q How do you know that?**

17 A Based on the records.

18 **Q What records?**

19 A When she was sent to the emergency room
20 and history that was obtained.

21 **Q Well, Dr. Rahman, in his consult, says**
22 **that she started with her symptoms the night of the**
23 **surgery. Did you read that?**

24 A The night of the surgery?

25 **Q Yes, sir.**

1 A Well, she didn't have the symptoms that I
2 mentioned the night of the surgery.

3 Q Well, did you read Dr. Rahman's consult?
4 Is he wrong?

5 A I -- well, I can't say that he is wrong.

6 Q Okay. Did Mrs. Geary -- strike that.
7 Did Mrs. Davis or her husband testify at
8 their deposition as to when she started feeling sick?

9 A I can't recall the exact time that they
10 said.

11 Q Did they, one way or the other?

12 A I don't recall.

13 Q This designation goes on to say the first
14 evidence of plaintiff being sick is at 10:30 on August
15 30th, 2005.

16 A Right.

17 Q Now, you're getting that from the history
18 and physical that was taken when she presented at
19 3:00 a.m. the 31st, correct?

20 A Correct.

21 Q You didn't get that from Dr. Rahman's
22 consult when she was seen at the request of Dr. Geary?

23 A No.

24 Q And I understand the next sentence, that
25 you believe that a patient is going to present with

1 abdominal symptoms within -- what did you say? I
2 don't want to put words in your mouth.

3 A 24 to 30 hours.

4 Q 24to 30 hours if this perforation had
5 occurred intraoperatively?

6 Okay. I'm over on page 3 now, Dr. Cane.
7 You say there was no failure to timely recognize the
8 perforation, and that's because you hold the opinion
9 that this perforation did not occur intraoperatively,
10 correct?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q You then go on to say, "The patient's
13 colon was unknowingly compromised through lysis of
14 adhesions, which led to ischemia, necrosis, and a
15 subsequent perforation," correct?

16 A Correct.

17 Q And it is your opinion, is it not, Doctor,
18 that by 10:30 in the evening on August 30th, this
19 patient's colon had perforated?

20 A It was beginning to leak.

21 Q And is it your opinion that the ischemia
22 and the necrotization of the bowel wall can happen
23 that quickly?

24 A May I explain?

25 Q You may. Well, let's -- with the -- if

1 **you can, give me a "yes" or a "no," and then, by all**
2 **means, explain.**

3 A Yes.

4 **Q Is it your opinion that it happens that**
5 **quickly?**

6 A Yes, uh-huh.

7 **Q Okay. And you would like to explain.**
8 **Please do.**

9 A The unique situation that this patient had
10 was the significant diverticulosis. And in -- with
11 the adhesions involving the sigmoid, that region where
12 she stayed away from, just moving adhesions around can
13 stretch -- do you understand what a diverticulum is?

14 **Q I do.**

15 A Okay. If you stretch the diverticulum and
16 there is inflammation there, stool trapped in the
17 diverticulum pocket, you have inflammation and
18 inflammation can predispose to necrosis and weaken the
19 wall of the neck of the diverticulum. There's one --
20 adhesiolysis in the region of that, and you put a
21 little tension on that, you weaken the serosa, which
22 is outside the bowel, which is inflamed, and later on
23 it can autoamputate.

24 **Q Did --**

25 A This is a phenomenon that can definitely

1 occur, otherwise patients would have ruptured
2 diverticula and die.

3 **Q I understand. Rather --**

4 A That's an injury with no surgery.

5 **Q Doctor, where in the medical chart do you**
6 **see any evidence from Dr. Geary or Dr. Rahman that**
7 **this patient suffered a diverticular-related necrotic**
8 **perforation?**

9 A She had a perforation that was the size of
10 the tip of one's finger, correct?

11 **Q By the time Dr. Rahman got into her**
12 **abdomen, he was able to put his finger in the hole.**
13 **Does he describe any diverticulitis types of signs or**
14 **symptoms in his dictation?**

15 A Sometimes you can't make that definition.

16 **Q That wasn't my question. Did he?**

17 A That information is in the chart.

18 **Q The operative report from Dr. Rahman:**
19 **Does it mention anything about this perforation being**
20 **related to diverticular symptoms?**

21 A He couldn't. He doesn't have to.

22 **Q Did he?**

23 A He did not.

24 **Q And is there any pathology from his first**
25 **surgery that would indicate diverticular disease in**

1 **the area of this perforation?**

2 A When it autoamputates -- a pathologist
3 can't look at that, if it amputates at the base of the
4 diverticulum and say, "This is due to a perf," unless
5 he sees thermal injury. If it's a laceration, you'll
6 see the laceration. It's clean. If there were
7 vegetative fibers around the area and necrosis but no
8 signs of thermal injury, no signs of cautery effect,
9 you can't find a pathologist that will tell me or you
10 that this was not a result of a diverticulum being
11 ripped off. You can't.

12 Q Okay.

13 A You can't. You can't. I defy you to find
14 one.

15 Q **Did Dr. Rahman even excise any tissue from**
16 **the perforation and send it to pathology?**

17 A He submitted a section of sigmoid. He
18 submitted it when he removed that part of the sigmoid.
19 The pathologist is the one that made reference to the
20 size of the hole. The pathologist made that point.

21 Q **Is it your understanding and your**
22 **testimony that there is tissue pathology, tissue**
23 **pathology from Dr. Rahman's surgical repair of this**
24 **patient on September 2nd?**

25 A Well, I don't -- I recall reading it.

1 About 10 centimeters or so of sigmoid was removed. I
2 don't know what page it was on, but it was removed. A
3 portion of the sigmoid was actually removed.

4 **Q And is it described in any way as being**
5 **riddled or otherwise affected with diverticular**
6 **disease?**

7 A Well, the CT scan mentioned that.

8 **Q That wasn't my question.**

9 A Well, no, because he didn't need -- he
10 wasn't focused on that, to be honest with you. I
11 wouldn't have been focused on it either. I would have
12 been focused on it on purpose, on the hole. There was
13 an omission on his part and that was an omission that
14 was of importance.

15 **Q Well, what are you relying on specifically**
16 **in support of your opinion that this was an -- what**
17 **did you call it? -- autoamputate secondary to**
18 **diverticular disease?**

19 A And secondary to the manipulation of
20 surgery.

21 **Q Tell me what it is, what are you relying**
22 **upon? We've looked at Dr. Geary's operative report.**

23 A Right.

24 **Q And from that, I take it, you gather that**
25 **there was some bowel manipulation?**

1 A That's right.

2 Q Okay. What else in this chart are you
3 relying upon in support of the proposition that this
4 perforation was diverticular-disease related?

5 A Are you denying that she had diverticular
6 disease?

7 Q I'm not answering the questions today,
8 Doctor. You are.

9 A Let me make a statement. She had
10 diverticular disease.

11 Q Okay.

12 A Confirmed by the radiologist. Confirmed.
13 Not one, but multiple.

14 Q Okay. Diverticulitis or diverticulosis?

15 A Diverticular disease.

16 Q Which one?

17 A Diverticulosis is not inflammation, but
18 diverticulitis is inflammation.

19 Q Yes, sir.

20 A And I'm saying that she had diverticulitis
21 in the area where the hole occurred.

22 Q And I want you to tell me what you are
23 relying upon in support of that proposition.

24 A I'm relying on the size of the hole, where
25 it was located underneath the sigmoid colon, the fact

1 that she had the surgery, and I'm giving a reasonable
2 degree of experience in making that statement. I'm
3 basing it on my experience, my surgical experience and
4 what I found in the chart and the pathology that she
5 had. It gives me reasonable doubt.

6 **Q Reasonable doubt of what?**

7 A That that perf was not caused by any
8 instrumentation or a laceration.

9 **Q Explain what that means. What gives you**
10 **reasonable doubt?**

11 A First of all, I don't see any evidence in
12 the path report there was a knife laceration. There
13 was no evidence in the path report that there was a
14 cautery effect that caused a thermal injury, where
15 there is a burn injury or cautery from electrosurgery,
16 or even the Harmonic scalpel, because when you look on
17 the path report, if there is thermal injury, the
18 pathologist will refer to that and describe the reason
19 and the nature of the burn injury. It has a
20 characteristic appearance on pathology, thermal
21 injuries do. A knife injury has a characteristic
22 look, as well.

23 **Q A knife injury that was inflicted two,**
24 **three, four, five days earlier?**

25 A Yeah. Absolutely. Absolutely.

1 **Q Are you going to be able to look at it and**
2 **go, "Uh-huh, a knife did that"?**

3 A As opposed to a round hole that you put
4 the tip of your finger in. And remember, I read the
5 path report, too.

6 **Q What does the word "iatrogenic" mean to**
7 **you, Doctor?**

8 A Induced by a surgeon.

9 **Q The surgeon?**

10 A Or physician. Iatrogenic is --

11 **Q And Dr. Rahman describes this injury in**
12 **his chart dictation on two separate occasions as**
13 **"iatrogenic," doesn't he?**

14 A But he doesn't back it up.

15 **Q I didn't ask you that. I said that's what**
16 **he said at the time before there were any lawsuits --**

17 A Yes, sir.

18 **Q -- and any lawyers.**

19 A Yes, he does, but I don't agree with him.

20 **Q Say again?**

21 A I don't agree with that.

22 **Q I know you don't. I'm figuring that out**
23 **quickly.**

24 A He couldn't back it up. I would have
25 agreed with him if he could back it up.

1 **Q** Well, when you say he didn't "back it up,"
2 you mean he didn't accept your and my understanding of
3 the meaning of that word at his deposition?

4 MR. BOONE: Objection.

5 A To me, to "back it up" is you need a
6 pathologist report on that. I want a third nonbiased
7 opinion. Someone who is an expert in making those
8 kinds of decisions.

9 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

10 **Q** And there is no pathology from the
11 August 29th surgery, is there?

12 A I beg to differ with you.

13 **Q** Can you put your hands on it for me?

14 A The pathologist didn't look at the segment
15 of colon that was removed.

16 **Q** Is there a pathology report from the
17 August 29th, 2005, surgery?

18 A You mean Dr. Geary's report?

19 **Q** No. A pathology report.

20 I'm sorry. Is there a -- I misspoke.

21 **You're right. Is there pathology -- is there a**
22 **pathology report from the repair surgery that Dr.**
23 **Rahman performed?**

24 A There is a report when they removed the
25 segment of the colon.

1 **Q Whatever he did on September 2nd, is there**
2 **a pathology report that you reviewed?**

3 A Yeah. May I look at the September 2nd
4 surgery?

5 **Q At his operative report?**

6 A Sure. The pathology report.

7 **Q I don't have one. If you've got one, I**
8 **would very much like to see it.**

9 A May I take a look?

10 **Q You can look at my -- there is not one in**
11 **here, but sure, you can look. What do you want to**
12 **look at?**

13 A His surgery.

14 **Q His, his op report?**

15 A Yes.

16 **Q Okay. Hold on.**

17 A Immediately behind the op report should be
18 a path report.

19 **Q These aren't organized the same way that**
20 **Mr. Boone's were. Here is his op report. I'll just**
21 **give you the whole book, Doctor.**

22 A Thank you very much.

23 **Q I'm not very good with hands these days.**

24 (Discussion off the record.)

25 THE DEPONENT: I'm referring to the

1 pathology report where the pathology reported the
2 vegetative material in the colon. Are you familiar
3 with that?

4 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

5 **Q Show me.**

6 **A** Oh, you're not familiar with that one?

7 **Q All I'm really interested in, because I**
8 **couldn't find any, Doctor, is a pathology report from**
9 **Dr. Rahman's September 2nd surgery.**

10 **A** Okay. Okay. No.

11 **Q Well, have you got your set here? It's a**
12 **secret piece of yellow paper that you're not supposed**
13 **to look at.**

14 **A** I have to go find my -- how is this
15 organized?

16 **Q By hospitalization.**

17 **MR. BOONE:** Off the record.

18 (Discussion off the record.)

19 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

20 **Q Doctor, what I found was a February of**
21 **'06 --**

22 **A** Okay.

23 **Q -- path report, which I think is what you**
24 **were referring to.**

25 **A** Let me take a look at this, please. Thank

1 you.

2 Q Yes, sir, and I apologize for not being
3 able to get my hands on it sooner.

4 A Uh-huh.

5 Q Have you had an opportunity to review that
6 now, Doctor?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Is that the path report that you were
9 referring to earlier?

10 A Yes, that's the one.

11 Q And this is the pathology from the surgery
12 that was performed in February of 2006?

13 A Right.

14 Q So back to my original question. Are you
15 aware of any pathology from Dr. Rahman's September
16 2nd, '05 surgical procedure?

17 A Only his description of it.

18 Q So not to beat a dead horse, I want to be
19 sure that I understand everything that you're relying
20 upon in support of your proposition -- that's my word,
21 not yours -- that this lady's perforation was
22 diverticular-disease related, number one, the fact you
23 are of the opinion that Dr. Geary manipulated the
24 bowel during her procedure.

25 A Right.

1 **Q And number two, the pathology report from**
2 **February 23rd of '06, refers to diverticular disease.**

3 A No, that doesn't refer to that.

4 **Q Okay. Then what --**

5 A The CT scan -- there's a report in here
6 from the radiologist that refers to multiple
7 diverticula.

8 **Q And when was that CT performed?**

9 A That was during the hospitalization.

10 **Q Which one?**

11 A The hospitalization where -- not the
12 hospitalization, the second one, but the first one.

13 **Q The February '06 one?**

14 A No, not that one.

15 **Q Dr. Geary's hospitalization? Dr. Rahman's**
16 **hospitalization?**

17 A Dr. Rahman's hospitalization --
18 Dr. Geary's hospitalization.

19 **Q Yeah, I called that one a Dr. Rahman**
20 **hospitalization, but your description is much more**
21 **accurate. This is an abdominal CT?**

22 A Yes. Uh-huh.

23 **Q I'm looking at one dated September 2nd**
24 **without contrast, and there's no mention of**
25 **diverticular disease with that one. Here's one**

1 without contrast. That's pelvic, and there is no
2 mention of diverticula there. There's a line
3 placement.

4 A May I look?

5 Q Yeah. Absolutely, because I'm not finding
6 that either.

7 MR. LEWIS: Let's go off.

8 (Discussion off the record.)

9 MR. LEWIS: Okay. We're back on.

10 BY MR. LEWIS:

11 Q Now, what you're telling me, Doctor, is
12 that in addition to your assumption that Dr. Geary
13 manipulated the bowel during her procedure --

14 MR. BOONE: Objection to form.

15 BY MR. LEWIS:

16 Q -- your -- the other thing that you are
17 basing your opinion on that this perforation was
18 secondary to diverticular disease is a February of '06
19 barium enema?

20 A Confirming the presence of diverticular
21 disease in the sigmoid colon.

22 Q Let me see if I can find that.

23 A 2-02-06.

24 Q Whose record does that appear in? Do you
25 remember?

1 A February '06.

2 Q Yeah, but she's not in the hospital in
3 February -- she doesn't go into the hospital in
4 February of '06 till the 23rd, so it must be in
5 somebody's office chart. Do you remember whose?

6 A It's a barium enema report.

7 Q Do you think it was in Dr. Rahman's?

8 A Yeah, I think it was Dr. Rahman's.

9 Q I don't have it. But it is a February of
10 '06?

11 A February 2nd, 2006, radiology report of a
12 barium enema.

13 Q Right. Right. And when you went back
14 into your office, did you put your hands on that? I
15 don't want it if it's got any writing on it or
16 anything that's privileged, but if it doesn't, could
17 you produce that for me? I mean, did you just go back
18 in and look at it?

19 A It's got writing on it.

20 Q All right. Well, at least tell me who did
21 it, where it was done so I can find it.

22 (Discussion off the record.)

23 A Chesapeake General Hospital.

24 BY MR. LEWIS:

25 Q Who was the ordering surgeon? Rahman?

1 A Yeah, I think it's Rahman.

2 **Q And that is 2-02-06?**

3 A Chesapeake General Hospital.

4 **Q Barium enema?**

5 A Barium enema showing diverticulitis of the
6 sigmoid colon.

7 **Q Yes, sir.**

8 A I should say, multiple diverticula of the
9 sigmoid colon.

10 **Q Okay. So we've got the manipulation of**
11 **the bowel and a February of '06 barium enema?**

12 A Confirming diverticulosis of the sigmoid
13 colon.

14 **Q Anything else you're relying on to support**
15 **your opinion that this lady's perforation was**
16 **secondary to diverticular disease?**

17 A The pain she was having.

18 **Q What pain?**

19 A She was having pelvic pain prior to the
20 surgery.

21 **Q Before Dr. Geary's surgery --**

22 A That's right.

23 **Q -- where she was never diagnosed with**
24 **diverticulysis -- diverticular disease prior to that**
25 **surgery, was she?**

1 A It doesn't mean she doesn't have it. She
2 had it, though.

3 **Q I understand. But she was never**
4 **diagnosed. Anything else?**

5 A It's often missed.

6 **Q Anything else?**

7 A No.

8 **Q That's it? Her complaints of pain?**

9 A Right.

10 **Q The fact that Dr. Geary manipulated the**
11 **bowel, and a February '06 barium enema?**

12 A Right.

13 **Q Back to Exhibit No. 2, Dr. Cane, about**
14 **halfway down that first paragraph this disclosure**
15 **notes that, "If a perforation the size of the tip of a**
16 **little finger had occurred during Dr. Geary's surgery,**
17 **she would have easily recognized the complication."**
18 **Is it your opinion, Dr. Cane, that the size of the**
19 **perforation as described by Dr. Rahman is the size of**
20 **the perforation when it first occurred?**

21 A Yes.

22 **Q What do you base that opinion upon?**

23 A Well, I'm trying to think of reasons why
24 it would enlarge.

25 **Q How about necrosis?**

1 A It would just make the edges -- she didn't
2 have time for necrosis to cause that type of damage,
3 to make it larger. The colon wall is pretty thick.
4 You would have to have changes around the edges, it
5 would indicate necrosis, but not make the hole bigger.

6 **Q So if the absence of diverticular disease,**
7 **your opinion is that this perforation could not have**
8 **happened due to ischemia and resultant necrosis**
9 **postoperatively, correct?**

10 A Well, there is -- I'm not going to accept
11 another theory that if there was some weakening of the
12 wall of the colon where there was no perf with some
13 deserosalization, because there are three layers,
14 through peristalsis and violent contractions of the
15 colon, that gradually it could open up, yes.

16 **Q That's not in Exhibit No. 2 anywhere?**

17 A No. No. You asked me a question, I
18 answered it.

19 **Q Okay. But that is not your opinion of**
20 **what happened in this case, is it?**

21 A No, it's not.

22 **Q Okay.**

23 A And, again, to answer your question, a
24 hole that size, as it says attributed to me, the
25 leakage would have been rather copious through a hole

1 that size. You're talking about almost 2 centimeters.

2 The tip of one's little finger is almost 2

3 centimeters. We're talking something like this.

4 **Q What you're holding up is quite a bit**
5 **bigger around than the tip of my little finger.**

6 A Well, look. I mean, watch carefully.

7 This is my little finger. I'm taking it out.

8 **Q Okay.**

9 A So I'm just saying that a hole this size,
10 it's going to be hard for the bowel to contain
11 contents in there. It's going to come on out,
12 especially when irrigating.

13 **Q Well, when's the last time --**

14 A A pinhole is a different thing now.

15 **Q When was the last time this patient ate**
16 **prior to Dr. Geary's surgery?**

17 A It doesn't -- I'm not saying feces. I'm
18 saying contents, because there are going to be liquid
19 contents in the bowel.

20 **Q In the sigmoid colon?**

21 A Absolutely.

22 **Q Do you know when this patient last ate**
23 **before this surgery?**

24 A It doesn't matter.

25 **Q That wasn't my question.**

1 A Okay. Probably --

2 **Q Do you know?**

3 A No. I'm just saying routine. I don't
4 know.

5 **Q You don't know?**

6 A Routinely we say, Don't eat anything after
7 midnight the night before surgery. But let's say she
8 hasn't eaten for two days prior to the surgery. There
9 is going to be liquid contents in the colon, not
10 feces, so I'm with you on that point. Not feces, I'm
11 not saying that, but liquid.

12 **Q Did Dr. Geary do a bowel prep on this**
13 **patient?**

14 A I didn't read anything about bowel prep.

15 **Q Should she have?**

16 A No, that's not the standard of care.

17 **Q It's not?**

18 A No.

19 **Q Okay. Do you when you are performing**
20 **laparoscopic surgery on a patient who has been**
21 **surgerized four times previously in the last four**
22 **years?**

23 A I do bowel preps on all my patients,
24 because I have referrals from other gynecologists, et
25 cetera, because I'm anticipating some significant

1 problems.

2 **Q You get referrals from doctors like**
3 **Dr. Geary, whose patients have persistent abdominal**
4 **pain in spite of multiple laparoscopic procedures?**

5 A Who have had four or five surgeries, yes.

6 **Q Those get sent to you?**

7 A Right.

8 **Q And when you are going to operate on a**
9 **patient like Mrs. Davis was operated on in August of**
10 **'05, you do a bowel prep, because you're anticipating**
11 **a difficult case?**

12 A Because I've never operated on them
13 before. They are not my patient.

14 **Q Okay. The fact that you have never**
15 **operated on them before, why does that result in a**
16 **bowel prep being done by you?**

17 MR. BOONE: Just a minute. Can I just
18 have a standing --

19 MR. LEWIS: Yes.

20 MR. BOONE: I know relevance. What he
21 does and standard of care are two different things.

22 MR. LEWIS: You can have a standing
23 objection to the fact that I am sitting here.

24 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

25 **Q What is it about the fact that you have**

1 never operated on the patient that leads you to say,
2 "I want a bowel prep"?

3 A Because I haven't seen the inside of the
4 abdomen before in terms of the extent and nature of
5 their disease, so I'm sort of going in not knowing
6 what to expect.

7 Q How about a patient that comes to you
8 abdomicia (phonetic), when you're doing the first
9 surgery this patient has ever had? When I say
10 "surgery," I'm talking about lysis of adhesions.

11 A On a virgin belly?

12 Q Yeah. Do you bowel prep those?

13 A No.

14 Q Do you bowel prep any of them?

15 A Oh, yes.

16 Q If you bowel prep a patient -- strike
17 that. It doesn't matter.

18 Well, Doctor, I think I misspoke earlier,
19 for which I apologize.

20 The middle paragraph of page 3 of Exhibit
21 2 does posit a serosal weakening of a possible cause
22 of this bowel perforation.

23 A Right.

24 Q So now do I understand it that you are
25 positing two ways this could have happened?

1 A Well, basically it's saying the same
2 thing.

3 **Q Okay.**

4 A Because if, you know, as I mentioned
5 before, when I talk about the base of the
6 diverticulum, if there is any tension on it, you can
7 cause a weakening of the serosa.

8 **Q Okay.**

9 A So basically we're talking about the same
10 thing making two different spots, the same type of
11 phenomenon.

12 **Q Do you know where -- well, let's look at**
13 **page 4 real quickly. The last paragraph of your**
14 **designation basically says you're going to disagree**
15 **with the plaintiff's experts.**

16 A Now, which page 3?

17 **Q Page 4, I'm sorry, at the top. The last**
18 **page of your designation.**

19 A Okay.

20 **Q And you're aware that it's the plaintiff's**
21 **contention that this perforation occurred**
22 **intraoperatively, and that Dr. Geary failed to**
23 **recognize it?**

24 A Correct.

25 **Q Is there anything else about the**

1 **plaintiff's opinions that you disagree with that you**
2 **haven't already talked with me about today?**

3 A Well, that Dr. Geary did not adhere to the
4 standard of care.

5 Q I understand that. But that's all part
6 and parcel of the fact that it's the plaintiff's
7 contention that she inflicted the injury, correct?

8 A That's correct.

9 Q Doctor, can you tell me where on this
10 patient's sigmoid colon the perforation occurred?

11 A I don't -- I mean, if I recall, Dr. Rahman
12 made his comments about it, it was in the sigmoid
13 colon --

14 Q Right. But --

15 A -- in the lower segment of the sigmoid
16 colon.

17 Q Lower section? Let's see if we can find
18 that.

19 A I don't want to misspeak on that. It
20 wasn't the rectum.

21 Q I know that.

22 A It was the sigmoid colon. It wasn't the
23 transverse colon, it wasn't the right colon, the
24 cecum. It was in the sigmoid colon.

25 Q I'm looking at his op report, "A hole was

1 **noted in the sigmoid colon admitting the tip of little**
2 **the finger."**

3 A Right.

4 Q **Does he give us any other description as**
5 **to where on the sigmoid colon he found this**
6 **perforation?**

7 A Well, you've got to remember now, in terms
8 of anatomy, he's being explicit here, because you
9 have -- the rectum is about this long. And then after
10 the rectum, you have the sigmoid colon.

11 Q **How long is the sigmoid colon?**

12 A The sigmoid colon is probably about this
13 long.

14 Q **How long is that? 10, 12 inches?**

15 A Yes.

16 Q **And along that transverse colon, could you**
17 **tell me where this injury occurred?**

18 A He, he didn't, Dr. Rahman didn't say.

19 Q **Right. So you don't know, correct?**

20 A That is correct.

21 Q **All right. I was looking at Netter's, Dr.**
22 **Netter's anatomy book earlier today, Doctor, and I**
23 **came across Plate No. 285 --**

24 MR. LEWIS: And, Mr. Boone, I'll be glad
25 to mark this as an exhibit if you would like.

1 MR. BOONE: Sure.

2 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

3 Q -- but Plate 285 -- and I'm going to need
4 that one back. You can't keep it -- Plate 280- --

5 A Is this the same one that you're looking
6 at?

7 Q Yes. Doctor, before I start blabbering
8 about it, why don't you take a look at Plate 285?

9 A Okay. May I take a look?

10 MR. BOONE: And this is from the text that
11 you referenced before --

12 THE DEPONENT: Uh-huh.

13 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

14 Q Frank Netter's --

15 A Uh-huh.

16 Q -- Textbook of Anatomy?

17 A Right.

18 Q Pretty well accepted in the medical
19 community?

20 A Right.

21 MR. BOONE: Objection.

22 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

23 Q What Plate 285 purports to show is
24 variations in positions of a patient's sigmoid colon,
25 and Dr. Netter divides it into four categories:

1 **Typical; short, straight and oblique; looping to the**
2 **right; and ascending high into the abdomen.**

3 **Based upon your training and experience,**
4 **Doctor, do you have an opinion as to whether Dr.**
5 **Netter's recitation of common variants of the position**
6 **of the sigmoid colon is accurate?**

7 MR. BOONE: Objection. Doctor -- you
8 haven't established that the doctor said this is a
9 reliable authority, and therefore you cannot question
10 him about this.

11 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

12 **Q Doctor --**

13 MR. BOONE: Doctor, I'll ask you not to
14 answer that question.

15 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

16 **Q Doctor, do you think Dr. Netter's anatomy**
17 **book is, is reasonably medically accurate in its**
18 **anatomical depictions?**

19 MR. BOONE: Objection to the form.

20 I think you have to establish -- you
21 believe he opines it's a reliable authority as opposed
22 to --

23 MR. LEWIS: I don't, but it's neither here
24 nor there. I'll give you an objection to all the
25 questions.

1 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

2 **Q Is Netter, in your view, a reliable**
3 **authority in terms of visualization of various parts**
4 **of the human anatomy including the sigmoid colon?**

5 **A I'd say it's fairly reliable.**

6 **Q All right. Do you agree with his**
7 **categorization of the four normal variations of the**
8 **position of a patient's sigmoid colon, or is this not**
9 **an area of your expertise?**

10 **A I can only base it on what I've seen.**

11 **Q Fine. Based upon what you've seen, do you**
12 **think these four variations of colon position are**
13 **reasonably accurate?**

14 **MR. BOONE: Objection.**

15 **A They may not be the only variations.**

16 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

17 **Q Okay. But they are four variations that**
18 **are known to you?**

19 **A I've seen them.**

20 **Q Okay. Which of these four, if any, did**
21 **Mrs. Davis present with?**

22 **A They didn't, Dr. Rahman didn't comment and**
23 **neither did Dr. Geary.**

24 **Q And so you don't know?**

25 **A No.**

1 **Q Okay.**

2 A Just like Dr. Rahman didn't mention the
3 diverticula --

4 **Q Yes, sir, I understand.**

5 A -- that she had.

6 **Q Doctor, from time to time in your medical
7 practice, do you receive correspondence from lawyers
8 asking for copies of your chart?**

9 MR. BOONE: Did you make that an exhibit,
10 Jim?

11 MR. LEWIS: I did not. If you want me to,
12 I will.

13 A Occasionally, when a patient's in an
14 accident, et cetera.

15 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

16 **Q And when you receive those requests, do
17 you routinely pull the file and review it?**

18 A Not always.

19 **Q Have you ever, when you've received a
20 request from a lawyer for a copy of your chart, gone
21 in and supplemented your chart entries? Added things?**

22 A No.

23 **Q Are you aware that Dr. Geary did that in
24 this case?**

25 A No.

1 MR. BOONE: Objection.

2 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

3 Q Pardon me?

4 A No.

5 Q You did not know? Didn't you read her
6 deposition?

7 A We're talking about her technique that she
8 used?

9 Q No. I'm talking about when she got a
10 lawyer letter she went back and added entries to Mrs.
11 Geary's -- Mrs. Davis's medical chart. Do you
12 remember her talking about that in her deposition?

13 A I'm not clear on that one.

14 Q Well, then, assume for me that she
15 testified that she did on, I believe, three different
16 entries. Do you think that is an appropriate thing
17 for her to have done?

18 MR. BOONE: Objection. Do you want to
19 show him the entries?

20 A If you would show me the entries, I can
21 make a response to that.

22 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

23 Q Well, I'm not prepared to do that. You
24 can't answer my question in the abstract?

25 A I don't know what kind of -- I don't know

1 what she entered.

2 Q I thought you read her deposition.

3 A What did she enter?

4 Q Things like -- I can't remember, and I
5 don't want to put words in her mouth. Things like,
6 Discussed risks, something like that.

7 A I read that. I read that.

8 Q Do you think it was appropriate for her to
9 go back months after that chart entry was originally
10 made and add an entry like that?

11 MR. BOONE: Objection.

12 A If she discussed them, yes.

13 BY MR. LEWIS:

14 Q But you've never done that, have you?

15 A Well, I've never had to do that. But if
16 she discussed them, I think it's appropriate.

17 MR. BOONE: Shall we mark that now?

18 MR. LEWIS: Sure.

19 MR. BOONE: And did you say you had an
20 extra for me, or did I keep it already?

21 (Marked Dr. Cane Exhibit No. 3.)

22 BY MR. LEWIS:

23 Q Doctor, this is a little bit of an unfair
24 question, but if you can answer it, I want you to. As
25 you know, the reason for my coming here today is to

1 find out what opinions you intend to share with our
2 jury, and, although I certainly don't presuppose to be
3 able to read Mr. Boone's mind, but you understand the
4 issues in this case, have you and I discussed all of
5 the issues that you think exist in this case in one
6 form or other?

7 A I think so.

8 Q When I leave here today, you're not going
9 to turn around to Mr. Boone and go, "Gosh, I cannot
10 believe that he didn't ask me about X," because if you
11 are, I want to know what X is, and I'll ask you about
12 it.

13 A I think we, correct me if I'm wrong, but I
14 think we covered most points that I wanted you to
15 cover or ask me about as relates to how a delayed
16 perforation can occur where it didn't happen during
17 the surgery.

18 Q Intraoperatively.

19 A Right. It was postoperative.

20 Q Let me ask you this, Doctor: How many
21 patients that you surgerized suffered delayed
22 perforations that you believe occurred after your
23 procedure was completed, like what occurred to
24 Ms. Davis? How many of those have you had in your
25 practice?

1 A Well, in 34 years, I've had one.

2 Q One?

3 MR. BOONE: Objection to the use of the
4 word "like Ms. Davis."

5 BY MR. LEWIS:

6 Q By that I mean a laparoscopic lysis of
7 adhesions where there was no evidence intraoperatively
8 of a bowel perforation, but the plaintiff suffered one
9 later. You've had that happen once?

10 A Once. And I've read about it happening.
11 And then I know about a couple of friends of mine who
12 were, themselves -- these were both men --

13 Do you want the original? Who gets the
14 original?

15 Q The original goes to her.

16 A Copy to him?

17 Q I have one, but I'll take another one if
18 you'd like.

19 A -- and so what I'm saying is, they're two
20 doctor friends of mine. One went on a trip and he
21 ruptured a diverticulum and almost died, just like
22 her.

23 Q After he had gone, and you helped take
24 care of the patient?

25 A No. No. He was a friend of mine. I've

1 lectured with him before. He's from Marietta,
2 Georgia. He doesn't live in the same state. He's a
3 famous guy --

4 **Q Uh-huh.**

5 A -- Dr. Bill Seay. He was involved in the
6 first laparoscopy gallbladder surgery that was done
7 with Bill McCarney, in the world. And Bill Seay was
8 traveling. He told me when he was traveling, he got
9 deathly ill. He had a ruptured diverticulum. Just
10 like this patient, he almost died.

11 **Q Was he status post laparoscopic lysis of**
12 **adhesions?**

13 A No. What I'm saying is it can occur
14 spontaneously.

15 **Q I know that, in a patient with**
16 **diverticular disease.**

17 A Yeah. So -- but he didn't have
18 diverticulitis at the time that he was traveling. It
19 just happened spontaneously. So what I'm trying to
20 say is that another guy in Petersburg, another doctor,
21 GYN doctor, the same thing happened. He had a
22 colostomy and all that stuff, just like that.

23 **Q Was he status post laparoscopic lysis of**
24 **adhesions?**

25 A No. He was a healthy young man.

1 Q Okay.

2 A He was in his thirties when it happened.

3 Q My question is, because it's my
4 understanding, Doctor, and correct me if I'm wrong,
5 but your opinions in this case begin with the fact
6 that Dr. Geary manipulated the bowel during her
7 procedure, thereby either interrupting blood supply or
8 causing a serosal weakening to the bowel wall?

9 A Okay.

10 Q But neither one of your friends had that
11 piece to the puzzle, because they weren't status post
12 surgery patients, were they?

13 A What I'm trying to say is it can happen.
14 I don't think you're following my thought process.

15 Q I think I am. I just want to make sure
16 you understood my question.

17 A Yeah, I understand your question. But my
18 point that I'm trying to make is that if it can happen
19 spontaneously in a 35-year-old man who's not had a
20 manipulation, it can certainly happen more
21 expeditiously in a person who had the same
22 diverticular disease with manipulation.

23 Q Okay. Well, let's talk about the one
24 patient that it happened to you in. How long ago was
25 it?

1 MR. BOONE: Note my standing objection.

2 MR. LEWIS: Yes.

3 A About 15 years ago.

4 **BY MR. LEWIS:**

5 Q And did that patient carry a diagnosis of
6 diverticulitis or diverticular disease when you
7 treated her?

8 A Yes, she did.

9 Q So she had a preoperative diagnosis of
10 diverticular disease?

11 A Well, this woman had a preoperative
12 condition of diverticular disease.

13 Q Well, I understand that, but she had never
14 been diagnosed, correct?

15 A Because she has never been diagnosed
16 doesn't mean she didn't have the disease.

17 Q I understand. In this patient of yours,
18 what surgical procedure did you perform on her?

19 A Lysis of adhesions and, amazingly, she had
20 multiple surgeries, too.

21 Q And --

22 A She'd been referred by another
23 gynecologist and had multiple surgeries.

24 Q And this was a laparoscopic procedure?

25 A Laparoscopic. That's exactly right.

1 **Q And you did not appreciate any bowel**
2 **perforation intraoperatively?**

3 A Absolutely.

4 **Q Absolutely not?**

5 A Absolutely not.

6 **Q And how long after the procedure did the**
7 **patient become symptomatic consistent with a bowel**
8 **perf?**

9 A Within about 30 hours.

10 **Q 30 hours?**

11 A Yeah. A couple days.

12 And what happened is I was lucky. I mean,
13 she was lucky. It sealed off, and she -- because the
14 body can do that -- she developed a fistula after
15 surgery. "Fistula" meaning that it started leaking
16 out --

17 **Q Sure.**

18 A -- through the incision.

19 **Q Sure.**

20 A But she was fortunate, because it had a
21 way out. Had she not had a way out -- guess what? --
22 it would have been the same situation like hers.

23 **Q Yes, sir, like Mrs. Davis?**

24 A Yes, but she had to have surgery again.

25 **Q That's the only patient that's happened to**

1 **you in?**

2 A That's why it's so vivid in my mind in
3 terms of -- that's why I can understand the mechanics
4 of it, because I've been there. Been there and done
5 that.

6 MR. LEWIS: All right. Doctor, I don't
7 have any other questions. Thank you for your time.

8 THE DEPONENT: Thank you, sir.

9 THE COURT REPORTER: Do you wish to read
10 and sign your deposition?

11 THE DEPONENT: I want to read it.

12

13 And further this deponent saith not.

14

15 (The deposition was concluded 4:54

16 p.m.)

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I, the undersigned, _____,

1 do hereby certify that I have read my foregoing
2 deposition and that, to the best of my knowledge, said
3 deposition is true and accurate (with the exception of
4 the following corrections listed below):

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Date JAMES H. CANE, M.D.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, to wit:

COUNTY/CITY OF _____:

Subscribed and sworn before me this _____ day of _____, 2009.

My commission expires: ____/____/____.

Notary Registration Number: _____.

Notary Public

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA AT LARGE, to wit:

I, Dorothy J. Lewis, CCR, Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Virginia, Notary Registration Number 323751, and whose commission expires October 31, 2010, do certify that the aforementioned appeared before me, was sworn by me,

1 and was thereupon examined by counsel; and that the
2 foregoing is a true, correct, and full transcript of
3 the testimony adduced.

4 I further certify that I am neither
5 related to nor associated with any counsel or party to
6 this proceeding, nor otherwise interested in the event
7 thereof.

8 Given under my hand and notarial seal at
9 Richmond, Virginia, this 26th day of July, 2009.

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Dorothy J. Lewis, CCR - Notary Public
Commonwealth of Virginia

\$	26th 96:9	a.m 55:19
\$300 19:18	280 81:4	AAGL 11:7 13:13
\$4,000 19:24 20:4	285 3:14 80:23	abdomen 34:9 36:17
\$600 11:16	81:3,8,23	37:7 39:7 40:20 52:16
\$750 19:20	29th 23:20 24:6	58:12 77:4 82:2
0	35:7,14 39:23	abdomicia (phonetic)
03 23:15 33:8 34:20	64:11,17	77:8
0315017 1:1	2nd 59:24 65:1,3	abdominal 33:20,21
04 23:19,20,21 33:9	66:9 67:16 68:23	34:8,11 47:3 53:18,21
05 23:21,23 24:3	70:11	56:1 68:21 76:3
33:9 67:16 76:10	3	abdominoplasty 30:12
06 66:21 68:2,13 69:18	3 3:14 6:1 11:16	able 40:7,9 41:4 58:12
70:1,4,10 71:11 72:11	56:6 77:20 78:16	63:1 67:3 87:3
1	86:21	absence 73:6
1 3:12 4:1 5:5,16 9:15	3:00 55:19	Absolutely 15:23 62:25
10:15	3:05 2:5	69:5 74:21 92:3,4,5
10 10:15 15:11 16:7,13	3:21 19:15	abstract 85:24
17:7,22,24 18:1	3:23 19:15	academician 7:1
21:1,12,16 25:17 60:1	30 16:12,19 17:25 18:6	Academy 11:2
80:14	26:23 54:15 56:3,4	accept 64:2 73:10
10:30 55:14 56:18	92:9,10	accepted 51:1 81:18
12 15:11 16:7,13	300 19:4	access 21:3
17:7 18:1 25:17 80:14	30th 55:15 56:18	accident 84:14
12-year 17:23	31 95:24	according 29:11 46:23
14 1:1 2:5	31st 55:19	accumulate 7:4
15 21:1,12,16 91:3	323751 95:23	accuracy 48:19
1989 10:12	34 26:24 41:25 52:17	accurate 5:7 34:4
1990 9:18	88:1	49:14 68:21 82:6,17
2	35-year-old 90:19	83:13 94:3
2 3:13 4:1 47:17 48:23	36 24:6 52:15	accurately 48:23
49:11,12,14,17 52:5	4	across 80:23
72:13 73:16 74:1,2	4 3:6,12,13 48:7	actual 20:15,16
77:21	78:13,17	actually 5:18 6:3
2001 23:2 27:23	4:5 2:3	18:12 26:8,23 27:1
28:13 29:3	4:54 93:15	28:6 30:25 39:6,13
2002 23:10 33:6	40 16:14,19 17:25 18:6	45:16 60:3
2004 34:17	5	acute 52:16
2005 34:17 35:7,14	5 40:4	add 86:10
39:23 55:15 64:17	8	added 84:21 85:10
2006 67:12 70:11	8 40:5	addition 69:12
2009 1:1 2:5 26:18	8266 2:6 4:11	additional 33:2,16,17
95:13 96:9	86 3:14	address 4:9,11
2010 95:24	9	adduced 96:3
2-02-06 69:23 71:2	9 9:15	adhere 79:3
215 2:7 4:13	9349 1:1	adherent 37:4
23227 1:1	A	adhesiolysis 57:20
23rd 68:2 70:4		adhesions 23:7
24 53:11,13 54:15 56:3		33:14,17,22
24to 56:4		34:8,12,14,15,16
		35:17,18,24 36:5,9
		39:2,3 40:8 43:5
		56:14 57:11,12
		77:10 88:7 89:12,24

91:19	APPLETON 2:12	backing 11:5
administering 15:2	applicable 14:17,22	bad 53:18
admitting 6:1,9 80:1	15:4 18:4	balloon 44:9
affected 60:5	applying 8:14,16	barium 69:19 70:6,12
affiliated 22:15	appreciate 92:1	71:4,5,11 72:11
mentioned 95:25	appropriate 17:4 25:22	Barnes 31:11
against 26:21	26:22 49:19,20 50:1	base 37:1 59:3 72:22
ago 15:11 29:17	85:16 86:8,16	78:5 83:10
44:16 90:24 91:3	approximately 25:16	based 34:22 35:9,20
agreed 63:25	April 23:15	39:1 54:17 82:3 83:11
ahead 20:23 33:12	area 27:14 35:19	basically 78:1,9,14
air 44:4,10,21	59:1,7 61:21 83:9	basing 38:10,14,19
alleged 26:21	aren't 15:18 65:19	62:3 69:17
Allergies 41:21	arrest 30:19	beat 67:18
allowed 7:18	articles 13:25 14:4	become 7:1
already 8:15 22:19	ascending 82:2	8:4,5,7,9,14,20,21,24
38:8 43:10 79:2 86:20	ascertain 42:8,11	9:4 92:7
am 4:10 8:9 11:19	aspirated 36:10	becomes 11:14 54:8
76:23 90:15 96:4	asserting 51:3	beg 64:12
amazingly 91:19	assets 10:16	begin 53:10 90:5
American 6:13 7:5,9	associated 96:5	beginning 56:20
8:5,8,10 11:3,4,9	Association 11:3,5,9	begins 50:8
amount 8:22 10:16	assume 85:14	behalf 16:20,21,23
amputates 59:3	assumes 20:4	17:19
anatomical 82:18	assumption 38:14,23	behind 65:17
anatomy 80:8,22	69:12	believe 14:16 55:25
81:16 82:16 83:4	ate 74:15,22	82:21 85:15 87:10,22
ancillary 38:2	Atlee 2:6 4:11	belly 38:6 77:11
and/or 45:8	attorney 2:13,16 27:25	belong 11:1,3
answer 17:17	29:13	beneficial 5:14
22:23,24 27:11	attorneys 4:17	best 94:2
51:22 73:23 82:14	attributed 73:24	better 37:15
85:24 86:24	attributes 48:1 49:12	bigger 73:5 74:5
answered 28:21,23 31:6	August 23:19,20 24:3,6	Bill 89:5,7
33:22 73:18	35:7 39:23 55:14	binder 30:15,20
answering 61:7	56:18 64:11,17 76:9	bit 74:4 86:23
anticipating 75:25	author 47:24 48:14	blabbering 81:7
76:10	authoritative 12:21	black 8:18
anybody 9:24	13:11 14:8	blackball 8:18
anymore 6:8 11:5	authority 12:15 13:7	bladder 35:22,23 36:6
anyone 10:6	82:9,21 83:3	blindly 38:2 45:22
anything 8:17 58:19	authorship 5:2	46:3,4
70:16 71:14 72:4,6	autoamputate 57:23	blood 90:7
75:6,14 78:25	60:17	board 6:13,24,25
anywhere 73:16	autoamputates 59:2	7:9,17,18
apologize 67:2 77:19	available 35:5	8:2,4,9,23 9:4
Apparently 30:18	avoided 39:2	Boards 7:5
appear 20:2 69:24	aware 52:13 67:15	body 92:14
appearance 19:23 62:20	78:20 84:23	book 65:21 80:22 82:17
Appearances 2:10	away 11:6 20:5 57:12	Boone 2:15 5:6
appeared 95:25		13:2,6 20:17 21:10
appears 49:18		22:10 23:21 26:6,8

27:13 29:6 31:6 38:22	86:21 95:8	chairman 6:20
44:15 47:6,12 48:6	C-A-N-E 4:10	change 14:7
64:4 66:17 69:14	Cane's 48:8	changes 73:4
76:17,20 80:24	cap 8:11	characteristic
81:1,10,21 82:7,13,19	care 1:1 14:17,22,24	62:20,21
83:14 84:9 85:1,18	15:3,9 18:4 25:22	charge 18:25
86:11,17,19 87:9 88:3	26:22 31:23 32:21	19:18,20 20:4
91:1	36:10 37:3,4,12	chart 15:9 17:2 18:3
Boone's 21:8 24:22	39:9 43:12 46:2 75:16	24:17 25:21
44:13 65:20 87:3	76:21 79:4 88:24	51:11,15 52:1 58:5,17
bore 4:23	career 31:22	61:2 62:4 63:12
Botaglieri (phonetic)	carefully 43:25 74:6	70:5 84:8,20,21 85:11
44:11	carry 91:5	86:9
bothering 26:12	case 1:1 4:17 14:17	charts 15:6 16:6
bowel 35:21,22 37:8	16:1 17:7 18:18 20:13	19:1,5 24:25
42:5,14 43:14,22,25	21:20 22:2,16	Chesapeake
44:6,8,19,21	24:20,23 26:17 27:3,4	23:3,10,15 70:23 71:3
45:1,6,12	28:16	Chicago 7:11,12
46:6,10,22 47:5	29:5,12,17,23,24,25	chronic 32:10
50:9,15,20 51:2	30:2,7,8 31:9 48:24	chronologies 22:3,4,5
52:1,11 53:1,23	49:8 52:19 73:20	chronology 22:2,18,20
54:9 56:22 57:22	76:11 84:24 87:4,5	Circuit 1:1 31:5
60:25 67:24 69:13	90:5	city 1:1 27:7,16
71:11 72:11	cases 7:4,8 18:17	CL07-4320 1:1
74:10,19	26:25	claim 28:13
75:12,14,23	castrated 33:11	claims 26:20
76:10,16	categories 81:25	clarify 33:23
77:2,12,14,16,22 88:8	categorization 83:7	clean 59:6
90:6,8 92:1,7	Catherine's 10:17	clear 33:4 36:1 44:3
bowels 50:11 52:21	cause 73:2 77:21 78:7	46:20 85:13
Box 1:1	caused 62:7,14	clearly 39:12
break 19:14	causing 90:8	client 17:2
breathe 30:15,21	cautery 59:8 62:14,15	close 32:24 38:7
breathing 30:22	CCR 1:1 2:2 95:21	clothed 41:4
bring 28:25	96:11	coast 7:10 9:5
broadly 24:25	cecum 53:8 79:24	colleagues 25:14,15
brought 35:15	CENTER 1:1	45:10
brown 45:15	centimeters 39:6,14	College 7:5 8:5,8,10
Bryan 31:11	40:4,5 60:1 74:1,3	colleges 9:7
bubbles 44:4 45:8	central 10:10	colon 24:12 52:11
46:12	ceremony 8:11 9:8	53:2,7,8 56:13,19
Building 2:7 4:12	certain 42:7,10	61:25 64:15,25 66:2
burn 62:15,19	certainly 33:24 87:2	69:21 71:6,9,13
business 20:6 41:25	90:20	73:3,12,15 74:20 75:9
	certificate 9:14	79:10,13,16,22,23,24
	Certification 1:1	80:1,5,10,11,12,16
	certified 6:13,19 7:17	81:24 82:6 83:4,8,12
	8:3,4,9,23 9:4	colostomy 89:22
	certifies 6:22	comes 14:10 77:7
	certify 94:1 95:24	comfortable 19:10
	96:4	coming 32:14
	cetera 30:12 75:25	45:14,17 86:25
	84:14	commenced 24:6
C		
CANDICE 1:1		
Cane 1:1 2:1,6		
3:3,11 4:1,4,10		
8:19 17:1,18		
18:2,13 19:1,17 47:16		
48:22 49:19 50:8		
52:13 56:6 72:13,18		

commencing 2:5	convert 34:20	daughters 10:22
comment 12:17 14:16 34:5 51:3 83:22	converted 23:17	Davis 1:1 4:17 20:10 21:19 34:16 41:3 53:10 54:3 55:7 76:9 83:21 87:24 88:4 92:23
comments 79:12	COOPER 2:12	Davis's 33:2 85:11
commission 95:14,23	copies 84:8	day 19:24 20:3,6 42:4 95:12 96:9
common 82:5	copious 73:25	days 13:23 62:24 65:23 75:8 92:11
Commonwealth 2:3 95:10,20,22 96:12	copiously 35:24	dead 67:18
community 81:19	copy 13:21 31:20,21 84:20 88:16	deal 10:23
companies 15:7	correct 4:15,20,22 5:22 6:11 9:19 14:20 15:23 17:20 18:21 19:21,22,25 20:2,7 24:7,10,13,19 25:15 26:3 29:4,9 35:15 36:19 41:12,13,17 42:1 49:16 50:4,16 55:19,20 56:10,11,15,16 58:10 73:9 78:24 79:7,8 80:19,20 87:13 90:4 91:14 96:2	deathly 89:9
company 15:21 26:18	corrections 5:9 94:4	decide 32:15 39:7
complaints 72:8	correctly 8:25 14:19	decided 29:13
completed 87:23	correspondence 84:7	decisions 64:8
completely 48:23	counsel 2:13,16 96:1,5	defendant 2:16 15:1 17:10
completeness 48:20	count 53:17	Defendants 1:1 3:13
completion 19:20	county 27:17	defense 15:8
complication 50:10 52:2 72:17	COUNTY/CITY 95:11	defenses 17:12
complications 12:10 51:2	couple 53:3 88:11 92:11	define 14:22
complied 14:18	course 4:12	definitely 57:25
comply 26:22	court 1:1 2:4 18:8 26:5 31:5 47:14 93:9	definition 58:15
compromised 56:13	courthouse 18:13 27:18	definitively 44:19 45:1
computer 19:2 20:20	cover 87:15	defy 59:13
concerned 49:15	coverage 15:21	degree 62:2
concluded 18:2 25:21 93:15	covered 24:16 87:14	Delaware 18:18
condition 91:12	create 33:16	delayed 54:9 87:15,21
confirm 5:6 35:25 39:21 43:13	credibility 17:15	Denise 1:1 4:17 20:9 41:3
Confirmed 61:12	CT 60:7 68:5,8,21	denying 61:5
Confirming 69:20 71:12	current 5:7,8 12:23	Department 28:19
consent 51:5,15,18,19,25	Curriculum 3:12	depending 34:13 44:3 45:9
consents 51:10	cycle 33:15	depictions 82:18
conservative 16:11	cyst 35:20,23	deponent 3:2 20:19 22:12 65:25 81:12 93:8,11,13
consider 5:20 12:14,20 13:5,6,10		deposed 4:21 21:21,23
considerable 10:16	D	deposition 1:1 2:1,5 5:5 17:18 18:19 19:7,19,21 21:24,25 25:25 35:2,9 37:20 41:10,14 47:17 51:7 55:8 64:3 85:6,12 86:2 93:10,15 94:2,3
considered 6:23 9:14 15:1	damage 73:2	depositions 17:22 21:17 22:1
consistent 35:23 92:7	data 28:25	describe 35:5,10 39:5 40:12 41:11
consult 54:21 55:3,22	date 5:19 29:3,9 35:11 95:8	
consulted 52:23	dated 68:23	
contacted 15:14 16:3		
contain 49:7 74:10		
contention 78:21 79:7		
contents 52:11 74:11,18,19 75:9		
continuing 5:20		
contractions 73:14		
contrast 68:24 69:1		

58:13 62:18	diverticula 58:2	85:17 86:14 89:6 93:4
described 39:1,4	68:7 69:2 71:8 84:3	Dorothy 1:1 2:2
60:4 72:19	diverticular	95:21 96:11
describes 40:1 63:11	58:20,25 60:5,18	doubt 62:5,6,10
description 3:11 67:17	61:5,10,15 68:2,25	Downtown 27:20
68:20 80:4	69:18,20 71:16,24	Dr 3:11 4:1,16 10:12
deserosalization 73:13	73:6 89:16 90:22	11:25 17:1,18 18:2,13
designated 4:16	91:6,10,12	19:1,17
designation 3:13	diverticular-disease	21:19,21,23,25
48:9 55:13 78:14,18	61:4 67:22	24:17 25:13 34:19
determine 38:11,12	diverticular-related	35:2 36:21 39:10 42:3
developed 33:13 92:14	58:7	46:3,19 47:16 48:8,22
diagnosed 71:23 72:4	diverticulitis 58:13	49:19,20 50:1,8,21
91:14,15	61:14,18,20 71:5	51:7 52:13 54:21
diagnosis 91:5,9	89:18 91:6	55:3,21,22 56:6
diagnostic 23:25	diverticulosis 57:10	58:6,11,18 59:15,23
dictated 35:4	61:14,17 71:12	60:22 63:11
dictation 39:22 40:1	diverticulum	64:18,22 66:9
58:14 63:12	57:13,15,17,19	67:15,23
die 58:2	59:4,10 78:6 88:21	68:15,17,18,19
died 88:21 89:10	89:9	69:12 70:7,8 71:21
differ 64:12	diverticulylsis 71:24	72:10,13,16,18,19
different 29:24,25	divides 81:25	74:16 75:12 76:3
74:14 76:21 78:10	doctor 4:8 5:11 6:13	78:22 79:3,11
85:15	9:15 10:25 12:20	80:18,21 81:25
difficult 34:10,15	14:15 15:5 16:6	82:4,16 83:22,23
76:11	18:3 20:8 26:13,20	84:2,23 86:21 89:5
digress 17:16	28:12 31:18,22	90:6
diligence 46:23	33:19 34:7 35:2 36:14	drain 36:7
diligent 46:19	39:10 41:2,23 43:8,16	due 46:23 59:4 73:8
direct 3:6 4:6	45:6 46:25 47:14 51:4	during 7:3 43:15 46:11
36:18,22,25 37:22	52:5 56:17 58:5	50:12 67:24 68:9
40:10,17 43:23 50:20	61:8 63:7 65:21	69:13 72:16 87:16
disagree 14:12 78:14	66:8,20 67:6 69:11	90:6
79:1	77:18 79:9 80:22 81:7	
disclosure 72:14	82:4,7,8,12,13,16	E
discoloration 44:2	84:6 86:23 87:20	earlier 62:24 67:9
discolored 45:8 46:12	88:20 89:20,21 90:4	77:18 80:22
discomfort 53:19,21	93:6	easily 72:17
54:1,5	doctors 6:25 11:4 37:3	east 7:10 9:5
discussed 86:6,12,16	46:17 52:22 76:2	eat 75:6
87:4	Doctor's 6:2	eaten 75:8
Discussion 65:24 66:18	document 39:22	edges 73:1,4
69:8 70:22	40:12,21,25 41:8,10	edited 12:8
disease 58:25	47:22,25	education 5:17,20
60:6,18 61:6,10,15	documents 41:11	effect 59:8 62:14
68:2,25 69:18,21	51:6,15,25	either 7:1,2 19:14
71:16,24 73:6 77:5	donated 10:16	46:11 60:11 69:6 90:7
89:16 90:22	done 7:16 9:24 10:6,12	electrosurgery 62:15
91:6,10,12,16	23:24 26:17 32:6	elevation 53:16 54:12
distended 54:12	36:18 37:24	eligible 6:24,25
distinction 6:12	38:2,3,4,5,20 42:6	7:18 8:23
14:9,14	44:23 45:6 46:24	else 22:5 61:2 71:14
	52:18 70:21 76:16	

72:4,6 78:25	excise 59:15	72:11
emergency 54:19	Excuse 18:8	feces 44:3 74:17 75:10
employed 6:4	exhibit 4:1 5:5 9:15	fee 19:17,23
employee 15:20	10:15 47:17 48:23	feel 47:20 49:25
Emroch 28:10	49:11,12,14 72:13	feeling 53:10,18
enamored 11:4	73:16 77:20 80:25	54:4,5,8 55:8
endometriosis 32:10,20	84:9 86:21	fellow 6:14
42:18 43:2,3,5,6	exist 87:5	8:5,7,10,15,19,21,24
endoscopist 12:6	existence 34:8	9:13
enema 69:19 70:6,12	existing 50:24	fibers 59:7
71:4,5,11 72:11	expect 77:6	field 12:15,21
enhances 49:24	expedites 49:24	14:10,25
enlarge 72:24	expeditiously 90:21	fifth 32:1
ensure 43:21	expensive 11:15	figure 20:16
enter 86:3	experience 26:9	figured 6:4
entered 86:1	38:20 41:24 52:17	figuring 63:22
entire 47:25	62:2,3 82:3	file 20:10 84:17
entirety 49:5	expert 3:13 4:18 18:23	filed 26:20 30:23
entitled 5:17 9:8 12:9	64:7	files 17:25 25:17,24
entries 84:21	expertise 83:9	26:14
85:10,16,19,20	experts 17:11 78:15	filing 30:8
entry 28:24 45:11	expires 95:14,24	finding 69:5
86:9,10	explain 33:4,7 52:8	fine 26:11 83:11
error 28:17	56:24 57:2,7 62:9	finger 41:4 58:10,12
especially 52:11 74:12	explanation 33:1	63:4 72:16 74:2,5,7
ESQ 2:12,15	explicit 80:8	80:2
essentially 46:9	express 44:7	finish 6:17
establish 82:20	extensive 34:15,17	finished 30:14
established 82:8	43:2	finishing 6:18
estimate 16:5,10,11	extent 34:13 77:4	firm 2:15 22:15
17:21	extra 86:20	24:21 25:1,9,17
et 30:12 75:24 84:14	eyes 38:7	26:5 27:9 28:11
evening 56:18		first 6:17 7:24 8:2
event 96:6	F	9:16,20,21,22
everybody 30:22	face 26:12	10:2,3,6,8,11,13,14
everyone 13:23	Facella 27:6	15:5 16:7 26:7 37:5
everything 24:16 46:23	FACOG 8:6	38:15 40:24 45:23
49:14 67:19	fact 7:7 29:19 52:20	46:5 49:18 54:3 55:13
evidence 35:25 55:14	61:25 67:22 72:10	58:24 62:11 68:12
58:6 62:11,13 88:7	76:14,23,25 79:6 90:5	72:14,20 77:8 89:6
exact 46:23 55:9	failed 18:22 26:21	fistula 92:14,15
exactly 28:17 32:4	78:22	five 18:16 25:19,20,24
46:13 91:25	failure 56:7	31:24 62:24 76:5
exam 6:18,19,22	fair 5:2,3 7:4	fluid 36:1,9,10 44:2,3
7:11,12,19	fairly 83:5	45:8 46:12,20
Examination 3:4 4:6	familiar 11:17 12:8	focused 60:10,11,12
examined 96:1	66:2,6	follow-up 32:24
exams 7:10	famous 89:3	foregoing 94:1 96:2
exceeded 37:2,12	faster 44:10	forget 15:17
exceeding 46:2	February 66:20 67:12	form 43:5 51:18,19
excellent 14:1	68:2,13 69:18	69:14 82:19 87:6
exception 94:3	70:1,3,4,9,11 71:11	format 7:7
		formation 33:21 34:8

formulating 20:12	guy 89:3,20	hit 10:2
fortunate 8:1 92:20	guys 7:13 14:1,3	Hmm 17:24
Frank 44:11 81:14	GYN 13:15 89:21	hold 5:11 29:21
free 47:20	gynecologic 11:10	48:24 49:8,21 56:8
freed 35:24	12:21	65:16
friend 88:25	gynecologist 17:3 42:2	holding 29:12 74:4
friends 88:11,20 90:10	43:9 91:23	hole 58:12 59:20 60:12
front 18:13	gynecologists 75:24	61:21,24 63:3
full 4:9 96:2	Gynecology 6:14	73:5,24,25 74:9 79:25
fully 41:4		honest 25:12 60:10
	<hr/> H <hr/>	honor 8:5,21 9:14
<hr/> G <hr/>	halfway 72:14	horse 67:18
gallbladder 89:6	hand 5:15 29:12	hospital 6:2,4,6
gather 60:24	40:22 96:8	70:2,3,23 71:3
Geary 1:1 21:21,23	handing 39:22	hospitalization
34:19 36:21 39:10	hands 64:13 65:23 67:3	23:2,10 24:5 66:16
42:3 46:3,19 49:20	70:14	68:9,11,12,15,16,17,1
50:2,21 55:6,22	happen 56:22 87:16	8,20
58:6 67:23 69:12	88:9 90:13,18,20	hospitals 6:10
72:10 75:12 76:3	happened 29:14 30:10	hotel 7:13
78:22 79:3 83:23	42:12 43:1 46:22	hour 19:4,18,21
84:23 90:6	73:8,20 77:25	hours 20:9,12 21:12,16
Geary's 4:17 21:25	89:19,21 90:2,24	24:6 52:12,15
24:17 35:2 51:7 60:22	92:12,25	53:3,4,5,12,13
64:18 68:15,18	happens 57:4	54:15 56:3,4 92:9,10
71:21 72:16 74:16	happy 19:11	Howard 4:10
85:11	hard 13:20 74:10	human 83:4
General 23:3,11,16	Harmonic 62:16	husband 55:7
70:23 71:3	Harry 10:12,13	hysterectomies 32:12
Georgia 89:2	Hassan 37:13,24 38:17	hysterectomy 9:17
gets 54:11 88:13	hate 13:21	10:9,14 23:12 30:11
getting 14:11 54:12	haven't 77:3 79:2 82:8	32:16,18 33:6
55:17	having 49:22 71:17,19	
given 17:22 96:8	heading 5:16	<hr/> I <hr/>
gives 62:5,9	healthcare 15:21	i.e 20:11
giving 62:1	16:20,22,23	iatrogenic 63:6,10,13
glad 31:20 80:24	healthy 89:25	I'd 8:9 49:1 83:5
God 8:2	heard 12:1,2,4	idea 25:9
gone 18:12 84:20 88:23	help 10:19	identified 52:1
Gosh 87:9	helped 88:23	II 2:7 4:13
gown 8:12	Henrico 6:2 27:17	ill 53:10 54:4 89:9
gradually 73:15	hereby 94:1	I'll 31:20 65:20 80:24
graduation 8:11	Here's 68:25	82:13,24 87:11 88:17
graduations 9:6	hernia 24:9	I'm 4:23,25 5:11 6:4
Green 8:14 13:1	hers 92:22	8:2 10:19 11:6,13
greenish 44:2	herself 40:18	14:7 19:11 21:13,20
guaranteed 8:6	he's 26:11 31:13	22:22,24 25:11
guess 9:8 16:3 17:9	80:8 89:1,2	26:12 28:18,23
20:14 34:22 38:16	high 82:2	29:16 30:2 32:9
44:8 92:21	hired 22:16	33:4 39:22 40:17
guessing 21:13	history 47:3 54:20	43:16 44:19
guestimate 21:5	55:17	50:17,23 52:5,17,20
		56:6 61:7,20,24

62:1,2 63:22 64:20	inserted 36:21 37:21	June 9:6,7
65:23,25 66:7 68:23	38:15	jury 18:13 28:6 87:2
69:5 72:23 73:10	inserting 37:15 45:22	
74:7,9,17	insertion 37:5,19	<hr/>
75:3,10,25 77:5,10	insertions 36:18	K
78:17 79:25 81:3	inserts 38:1	kids 10:20
85:9,13,23 87:13	inside 77:3	Kilduff 28:10
88:19 89:13,19	instance 46:9,10	killling 41:21
90:4,13,18	instead 45:25 46:2	kindly 19:17
immediately 54:5,8	instrumentation 62:8	kinds 64:8
65:17	insufflate 37:7	knew 17:9
implied 51:18	insurance 15:7,20	knife 62:12,21,23 63:2
importance 60:14	26:18	knowledge 94:2
important 47:1,10,11	intend 87:1	known 50:10 51:1
inadvertently 43:14	intended 5:23	52:1 83:18
incarcerated 24:9	intentionally 38:3	<hr/>
inches 80:14	interested 66:7 96:6	L
incision 45:18 92:18	interrogate 7:13	laceration 59:5,6
incisional 24:9	interrupting 90:7	62:8,12
incisions 53:22	intimidate 7:14	lady's 23:2 67:21
includes 15:7	intraoperatively	71:15
including 26:6,24 51:2	47:5 52:7 56:5,9	Laparoendoscopic 12:10
83:4	78:22 87:18 88:7 92:2	laparoscopic
inclusive 20:1	invasive 49:23	10:8,11,14 11:12,18
increased 53:16,17	invite 49:1	12:15 31:24 32:1,20
54:12	involved 16:2 52:22	33:3 35:16 42:3,19
indicate 58:25 73:5	89:5	43:9 53:25 75:20 76:4
indict 8:17	involving 17:2 35:21	88:6 89:11,23
individual 15:16	36:6 57:11	91:24,25
individuals 15:6 26:14	irrigated 35:24 36:9	laparoscopically 34:10
45:20	46:19,20	45:7
Induced 63:8	irrigating 44:8 74:12	laparoscopically-
inflamed 57:22	irrigation 43:25 44:1	assisted 9:17
inflammation	ischemia 56:14,21 73:8	laparoscopies 34:3
57:16,17,18 61:17,18	issues 87:4,5	43:17
inflict 42:5	I've 12:1,4,18 14:14	laparoscopy 11:10
inflicted 42:14	20:2,19 25:6 32:6	12:21 23:5,6 24:1
43:13,14,22 45:20	38:1 43:4,10	33:8,9 35:17 49:21
47:4 62:23 79:7	52:18,23,25 76:12	50:2 89:6
information 21:4 22:19	83:10,19 86:15	laparotomies 34:1
29:8 35:5 58:17	88:1,10,25 93:4	laparotomy 23:18 34:20
informed 51:5,10,15,25		50:3
infringing 21:8	<hr/>	large 2:3 95:20
injured 50:11	J	larger 73:3
injuries 62:21	James 1:1 2:1,6,12 3:3	last 28:3 29:6 32:13
injury 42:5,14	4:4,10 95:8	35:13 44:14,15
43:14,22 44:19	Jim 8:19 48:6 84:10	74:13,15,22 75:21
45:1,21 47:5	journal 8:14 13:1 14:4	78:13,17
50:9,15,21,23 58:4	journals 12:23	later 9:7 53:12
59:5,8	13:2,4,6,10,12 14:2,6	57:22 88:9
62:14,15,17,19,21,23	judges 14:12	law 2:15 22:15
63:11 79:7 80:17	judgment 34:23	lawsuit 26:25 30:9,23
insert 37:4,6 44:20	July 1:1 2:5 96:9	lawsuits 63:16
		lawyer 16:2,3,25 26:18

27:5 31:8,16 84:20 85:10	80:9,11,13,14 90:24 92:6	18:25 19:19 20:5 58:5 81:18 84:6 85:11
lawyers 14:13 15:8 22:9 63:18 84:7	longer 7:18 15:17,18	medically 82:17
layers 73:13	looping 82:1	medicine 10:1 11:2 28:19
leads 77:1	lot 11:3	meet 25:5
leak 56:20	lower 40:9 79:15,17	meeting 26:8
leakage 52:10 73:25	lucky 92:12,13	member 11:7,14,15,20 21:2 25:1
leaking 92:15	lumen 44:21 45:12,16	members 24:21 25:17 26:5
least 26:10 70:20	Lynn 27:6,9,10	Membership 11:15
leave 45:18 87:8	lysed 35:17	Memorial 6:7
lectured 89:1	lysis 23:6 56:13 77:10 88:6 89:11,23 91:19	memory 22:22 23:13
led 56:14		men 88:12
left-hand 5:17	<hr/> M <hr/>	mention 58:19 68:24 69:2 84:2
less 17:24 34:3	M.D 1:1 2:1,6 3:3 4:4 95:8	mentioned 51:12 55:2 60:7 78:4
let's 16:11 19:14 56:25 69:7 75:7 78:12 79:17 90:23	maintain 53:6	met 25:6,7,8
letter 8:19 85:10	man 89:25 90:19	MID-ATLANTIC 1:1
Lewis 1:1 2:2,12 3:6 4:7 13:4,8,9 18:10,11 19:16 20:21 21:11,14 22:14,24 23:22 27:15 29:10 31:7 38:24 44:17 47:8,13 48:8,11 64:9 66:4,19 69:7,9,10,15 70:24 76:19,22,24 80:24 81:2,13,22 82:11,15,23 83:1,16 84:11,15 85:2,22 86:13,18,22 88:5 91:2,4 93:6 95:21 96:11	Management 12:9 13:15	middle 77:20
	managers 15:8	midnight 75:7
	manipulated 67:23 69:13 72:10 90:6	milestones 9:16
	manipulation 60:19,25 71:10 90:20,22	mind 24:14 87:3 93:2
	manner 20:18	mine 17:2 45:10 88:11,20,25
	Marietta 89:1	minimally 49:23
	mark 8:18 80:25 86:17	minimum 8:22
	marked 4:1 47:15 86:21	minute 76:17
	material 66:2	minutes 21:1 29:17
	matter 4:19 74:24 77:17	misinformation 19:13
	may 5:14 9:18 25:11 33:23 56:24,25 65:3,9 69:4 81:9 83:15	misquote 39:13,19
	maybe 15:11 16:12 18:5 25:4 26:23 29:6 50:7	missed 72:5
	McCarney 89:7	misspeak 79:19
	mean 20:17 23:21 27:1,25 33:5 49:23 50:2,10 51:7 53:25 63:6 64:2,18 70:17 72:1 74:6 79:11 88:6 91:16 92:12	misspoke 64:20 77:18
	meaning 40:6 49:10 64:3 92:15	moderate 34:18,25
	means 57:2 62:9	money 26:14
	mechanics 93:3	months 7:11 9:7 86:9
	Mechanicsville 2:7 4:11	moral 8:17
	media 10:2	mouth 56:2 86:5
	medical 2:6,7 4:12 5:20 11:3,5 15:6 16:1	moved 46:21
		moving 44:6,8 52:5 57:12
		multiple 32:2 61:13 68:6 71:8 76:4 91:20,23
		myself 42:23
		<hr/> N <hr/>
		nature 62:19 77:4
		neck 57:19

necrosis 56:14 57:18 59:7 72:25 73:2,5,8	gynecologist 4:14,18	37:21 39:13,20 58:18 60:22 65:5
necrotic 58:7	Obstetrics 6:14	opines 82:21
necrotization 56:22	obtained 54:20	opinion 4:19 8:20 36:20,24 38:19
needle 37:5,7	obviously 24:3 49:18	44:20 47:9 48:22 49:18,21 50:14
neither 82:23 83:23 90:10 96:4	Occasionally 84:13	52:24 56:8,17,21 57:4 60:16 64:7 67:23
nephew 10:21	occasions 63:12	69:17 71:15 72:18,22 73:7,19 82:4
Netter 81:25 83:2	occur 52:6 56:9 58:1 87:16 89:13	opinions 20:12 48:3,23 49:7,10,11,12 79:1
Netter's 80:21,22 81:14 82:5,16	occurred 56:5 61:21 72:16,20 78:21 79:10 80:17 87:22,23	87:1 90:5
news 9:25	occurs 53:1	opportunity 49:4 67:5
newspaper 9:23	October 23:2 35:14 95:24	opposed 50:2 53:7 63:3 82:21
nice 7:6 9:13	office 2:7 4:12 24:17 70:5,14	oral 7:12
niece 10:21	offices 2:6	order 8:7
night 54:22,24 55:2 75:7	oftentimes 44:3	ordering 70:25
nonbiased 64:6	oh 13:12 28:15 31:15 48:2,6 66:6 77:15	organization 6:15
None 5:10	okay 5:13 6:16 7:25 8:1 10:19 11:11 13:12	organizations 10:25
nonetheless 34:4	14:15 16:10,15 20:8 21:5,6 22:1 24:2	organized 65:19 66:15
nor 82:24 96:5,6	27:12 28:9 29:2,3,11 30:1	original 67:14 88:13,14,15
Norfolk 1:1 31:10,13	32:23 33:7,12 36:11 37:17 38:25 39:21	originally 86:9
normal 83:7	40:3 41:16,19 43:20 47:21 49:3 51:20	otherwise 58:1 60:5 96:6
northern 10:11	52:4,10,24 54:14 55:6 56:6 57:7,15 59:12	outside 57:22
Nos 4:1	61:2,11,14 65:16 66:10,22 68:4 69:9	ovaries 33:10
notarial 96:8	71:10 73:19,22 74:8 75:1,19 76:14	
Notary 2:2 95:15,17,21,22 96:11	78:3,8,19 81:9 83:17,20 84:1 90:1,9,23	P
note 50:25 91:1	omission 60:13	p.m 2:5 19:15 93:16
noted 35:17 80:1	ones 18:20	page 3:4,11 5:16 6:1 9:15 10:15 28:19 48:7
notes 72:15	one's 58:10 74:2	49:17 52:5,6 56:6 60:2 77:20 78:13,16,17,18
nothing 17:11 45:14,16 46:22 50:5	online 13:21,24	Page/Line 94:5
Notice 2:4	onto 5:11	pages 5:18
November 7:10 9:2,5	op 65:14,17,20 79:25	paid 29:21
numerous 7:13 32:6,8	open 73:15	pain 32:10,12 49:22 71:17,18,19 72:8 76:4
O	operate 76:8	paper 14:6 66:12
o0o 2:23 3:23 93:20	operated 76:9,12,15 77:1	paperwork 8:8 9:12 13:22
Oast 2:15 24:21 26:5	operating 45:7	paragraph 50:8 72:14 77:20 78:13
OB 13:15	operation 39:23	parcel 79:6
obese 30:21	operations 32:2	Pardon 85:3
OB-GYNs 43:17	operative 35:3,10	parsing 51:20
objection 18:9 38:22 47:6,12 64:4 69:14 76:23 81:21 82:7,19,24 83:14 85:1,18 86:11 88:3 91:1		particular 15:3
oblique 82:1		partner 24:22
obstetrician 17:3 43:8		
obstetrician/		

Partridge 25:13	54:9 56:4,8,9,15	please 4:9 50:19
party 96:5	58:8,9,19 59:1,16	52:9 57:8 66:25
pass 6:23 7:17,20 9:5	61:4 67:21 69:17	plugging 46:9
passed 7:23,24 8:2	71:15 72:15,19,20	pocket 57:17
path 62:12,13,17	73:7 77:22 78:21	poetic 44:20
63:5 65:18 66:23 67:8	79:10 80:6 87:16 88:8	point 30:16 37:3 45:18
pathologist	92:2	54:11 59:20 75:10
59:2,9,19,20 62:18	perforations 87:22	90:18
64:6,14	perform 91:18	points 87:14
pathology 58:24	performed 9:16 31:24	port 40:4,15,16,18
59:16,22,23 62:4,20	32:1,9 35:11 64:23	41:5,12 46:5
64:10,16,19,21,22	67:12 68:8	portal 40:10,20
65:2,6 66:1,8	performing 36:15	portion 60:3
67:11,15 68:1	42:3,4 43:9 47:1,2	ports 40:6 46:6
patient 15:7,10	75:19	posit 77:21
16:21 19:1 28:1 29:22	period 7:3 17:23 42:15	positing 77:25
30:3 33:20,21 34:10	periodical 13:16	position 82:5 83:8,12
35:7,15 36:15,21	periodicals 11:23	positions 81:24
42:4,15 43:3,14	12:19	possible 42:2,9 43:8
47:2,3 49:24	peristalsis 73:14	77:21
50:14,20,25 52:15	peritonitis 52:12	post 89:11,23 90:11
53:2 55:25 57:9	perpetuate 33:15	postoperative 87:19
58:7 59:24 74:15,22	persistent 76:3	postoperatively 73:9
75:13,20 76:9,13	person 8:13,15 22:13	potential 51:13
77:1,7,9,16 88:24	90:21	practice 7:2 9:10 20:6
89:10,15 90:24	personally 13:14	84:7 87:25
91:5,17 92:7,25	pertinent 33:25 34:3	Practitioner's 28:20
patients 6:9 26:15	Petersburg 89:20	predispose 57:18
31:23 32:2,9,10	phenomenon 57:25 78:11	preoperative 91:9,11
54:1 58:1 75:23	phrase 14:22	prep 75:12,14 76:10,16
76:3 87:21 90:12	physical 55:18	77:2,12,14,16
patient's 31:2 36:17	physician 25:21 63:10	prepare 22:4,5
40:20 42:5 56:12,19	picky 14:11,13	prepared 4:18 14:16
79:10 81:24 83:8	picture 30:16	22:6,7 85:23
84:13	piece 66:12 90:11	preparing 20:11
Paul 11:25 15:17,19	pinhole 74:14	preps 75:23
16:4	placed 36:16	prescribe 7:8
PC 2:12	39:4,6,11,14,16	presence 69:20
peers 15:1,13	40:15,21 41:5,12	present 55:25 83:21
pelvic 69:1 71:19	placement 69:3	presented 55:18
pelvis 35:18 50:24	places 40:1	presents 52:15
pending 27:16 31:4	plaintiff 1:1 2:13	press 44:9
people 15:18	15:8 16:25 17:15,19	presuppose 87:2
people's 50:11	27:24 50:9 52:7 55:14	pretty 9:3,23 14:11
per 19:24	88:8	30:5 73:3 81:18
perf 53:1 59:4 62:7	plaintiff's 17:7 31:16	prevailed 28:7,8
73:12 92:8	78:15,20 79:1,6	Prevention 12:9
perforate 37:8 45:10	plastic 30:10,11	previously 75:21
perforated 52:21 56:19	Plate 3:14 80:23	pride 5:1
perforation 35:25 44:4	81:3,4,8,23	Prince 30:6 31:3
45:6,9 46:10,11	platelet 53:16	print 28:25
51:2,11,12,16	PLC 1:1	prior 20:10,11 24:20
52:1,6,10 53:24	pleasant 26:9	

34:11 47:3 71:19,24	74:25 82:9,14 85:24	records 16:1 19:19
74:16 75:8	86:24 90:3,16,17	21:20 23:1,9
private 7:2 9:9	questions 5:2,12 22:23	24:8,11,14 35:1 52:18
privileged 70:16	27:11 44:14 61:7	54:17,18
privileges 6:1	82:25 93:7	recovery 49:24
probably 75:1 80:12	quick 9:3 20:22,24	rectum 79:20 80:9,10
problems 76:1	quicker 53:8	refer 62:18 68:3
procedure 24:6 32:1	quickly 56:23 57:5	reference 59:19
35:11,13,16 36:15	63:23 78:13	referenced 81:11
42:19 43:15 47:2	quite 74:4	referrals 75:24 76:2
49:23,25 51:17 52:2	quiz 22:22	referred 51:6 91:22
67:16,24 69:13		referring 65:25
87:23 90:7 91:18,24		66:24 67:9
92:6	R	refers 68:2,6
procedures 12:16,22	radiologist 61:12 68:6	refute 10:7
31:24 46:11 76:4	radiology 70:11	region 15:2 57:11,20
proceed 49:20 50:2	Rahman 21:19 54:21	Regional 6:7
proceeding 96:6	58:6,11,18 59:15	Registered 1:1
process 51:5 90:14	63:11 64:23 68:19	Registration 95:15,23
produce 70:17	70:25 71:1 72:19	Reich 10:12,13
professional 1:1 4:9	79:11 80:18 83:22	R-E-I-C-H 10:13
10:25	84:2	reinjure 46:5
proposition 52:14	Rahman's 55:3,21 59:23	related 58:20 61:4
61:3,23 67:20	66:9 67:15 68:15,17	67:22 96:5
provided 5:5 13:13	70:7,8	relates 87:15
provider 5:19	rather 58:3 73:25	relatively 5:7,8
16:20,22,24	reader 5:25	released 10:3 36:8
providers 15:22	reading 34:25 40:25	releasing 36:5
prudent 15:2	41:7 59:25	relevance 76:20
pseudocyst 35:19,21	real 78:13	reliable 12:14
36:2,12	realize 42:6	13:7,8 14:8 82:9,21
Public 2:2 95:17,21	realized 42:21	83:2,5
96:11	really 12:17 66:7	relief 32:12
publications 11:23	reason 17:6 62:18	rely 22:18,20
12:19	86:25 94:5	relying 51:3
publicized 9:21,22	reasonable 7:6 15:2	60:15,21 61:3,23,24
published 13:18	62:1,5,6,10	67:19 71:14
pull 19:2 84:17	reasonably 5:6 82:17	remember 8:25 13:19,20
pulse 53:17 54:13	83:13	17:21 21:20 23:1
purports 81:23	reasons 8:20 72:23	28:3,5 30:5 31:8,15
purpose 60:12	recall 55:9,12 59:25	63:4 69:25 70:5
pursuant 2:3	79:11	80:7 85:12 86:4
puts 32:18	receive 84:7,16	remind 10:18
putting 40:18	received 84:19	removed 33:10 59:18
puzzle 90:11	Recess 19:15	60:1,2,3 64:15,24
	recitation 82:5	render 4:19
Q	recognize 45:15 56:7	rendered 14:25
qualify 18:22	78:23	renew 6:3
question 4:24 14:7	recognized 72:17	repair 24:9 59:23
33:5 36:22 40:19	recollection 26:7	64:22
41:2,15 42:4 51:14,22	recommended 15:13	repaired 42:23,24
54:10 58:16 60:8	record 4:8 21:20 65:24	report 19:20 35:4,10
67:14 73:17,23	66:17,18 69:8,24	
	70:22	

37:21 39:13,20	Russell 31:11	sheet 28:20
58:18 60:22		she's 70:2
62:12,13,17 63:5	<hr/> S <hr/>	short 82:1
64:6,16,18,19,22,24	safer 49:25	showing 71:5
65:2,5,6,14,17,18,20	saith 93:13	sick 52:8 55:8,14
66:1,8,23 67:8 68:1,5	sat 18:13	sigmoid 53:1,7 57:11
70:6,11 79:25	saw 24:2 39:1 40:17	59:17,18 60:1,3 61:25
reported 1:1 66:1	41:6	69:21 71:6,9,12 74:20
reporter 18:8 47:15	scalpel 62:16	79:10,12,15,22,24
93:9	scan 60:7 68:5	80:1,5,10,11,12 81:24
Reporters 1:1	scar 41:5,6	82:6 83:4,8
request 55:22 84:20	schedule 19:18 21:8	sigmoidoscope 44:21
requests 84:16	scope 36:16 38:5,8,12	sign 93:10
requires 43:12	seal 96:8	significant 57:10
resection 24:12	sealed 92:13	75:25
residency 6:17,18	search 13:25 52:19	signs 53:11,15 58:13
26:24	Seay 89:5,7	59:8
respect 24:11	second 38:15,16	sir 5:4 7:15 14:5,21
respiratory 30:19	39:11 40:4 68:12	18:8 23:19 24:2
response 44:13 85:21	secondary 54:9	28:8 30:4,13,17
result 50:15 59:10	60:17,19 69:18 71:16	32:19,22 33:4,18
76:15	secret 66:12	34:2,24 37:1 41:19
resultant 73:8	section 59:17 79:17	43:7,24 50:19 51:9
resulted 50:23	seeing 37:25 41:7	52:9 53:6 54:2,25
retainer 16:3	seen 38:1 45:10	61:19 63:17 67:2 71:7
retrieved 19:17	47:22 52:22,23	84:4 92:23 93:8
reversal 24:12	55:22 77:3	sitting 76:23
review 15:9 16:1 18:25	83:10,11,19	situation 15:3 57:9
19:5,19 48:19 49:4	seepage 44:2	92:22
67:5 84:17	sees 8:15 59:5	situations 50:24
reviewed 16:6,19	segment 64:14,25 79:15	six 7:11 9:7 53:4,5
18:1 24:8,25 65:2	send 9:12,13 59:16	size 44:4 58:9 59:20
reviewing 15:6 18:3	sense 4:25	61:24 72:15,18,19
25:22 26:14	sent 54:19 76:6	73:24 74:1,9
Richmond 1:1 11:2	sentence 55:24	skills 34:23
27:8,17,19 31:4 96:9	separate 63:12	smile 26:11
riddled 60:5	sepsis 53:11	Society 11:11,17
ripped 59:11	September 23:10	somebody's 70:5
risk 15:8 33:21 37:8	59:24 65:1,3 66:9	someone 15:9 19:1 22:5
51:1,2,13,16	67:15 68:23	64:7
risks 86:6	serosa 57:21 78:7	somewhere 18:15 21:12
Road 2:7 4:11	serosal 77:21 90:8	Sonya 30:6 31:3
room 7:13 54:19	setting 42:17	sooner 52:8 67:3
Roughly 16:15	settle 29:13	sorry 10:19 22:24
round 63:3	settled 28:13	50:17 64:20 78:17
routine 75:3	30:8,10,22	sort 5:21 77:5
routinely 75:6 84:17	SHAPIRO 2:12	sound 22:21
rule 2:3 44:19 45:1	share 87:1	specialist 14:25
rules 2:4 4:24	shared 18:14	specialty 14:10
run 6:5,7 21:9	sharp 38:17	specific 50:18
ruptured 58:1 88:21	shears 40:7	specifically 60:15
89:9	She'd 91:22	speed 43:15
		spend 20:12

spent 20:9	summary 29:14	taught 38:1 44:25
spite 76:4	summer 9:1,2	TAYLOR 2:15
spontaneously 44:5,7 89:14,19 90:19	superior 49:23	teach 46:4
spots 78:10	supplemented 84:21	technically 38:16
St 10:17 15:16,18 16:4	supply 90:7	technique 35:6 37:13,25 85:7
staff 21:2	support 60:16 61:3,23 67:20 71:14	temperature 53:16 54:12
standard 7:7 14:17,22 18:4 25:22 26:22 37:2,4,12 39:9 43:12 46:2 75:16 76:21 79:4	supposed 45:17 66:12	tend 14:13
standing 76:18,22 91:1	supracervical 10:9	tension 57:21 78:6
stands 52:14	Supreme 2:4	terms 77:4 80:7 83:3 93:3
start 7:20 15:10 49:17 53:20 54:14 81:7	sure 22:25 37:9 43:19 44:1 47:4 49:2 65:6,11 67:19 81:1 86:18 90:15 92:17,19	testified 4:5 17:16,18 24:20,23 25:25 44:13 85:15
started 16:4 54:3,22 55:8 92:15	surgeon 30:11 43:12,21 45:7 47:1 63:8,9 70:25	testify 49:19 55:7
state 4:8 9:18 48:23 89:2	Surgeons 11:12,18	testimony 4:19 19:7,21 45:5 46:8 51:8 59:22 96:3
stated 39:12	surgeries 33:16,20 34:11 47:4 76:5 91:20,23	text 81:10
statement 52:8 61:9 62:2	surgerized 35:6 75:21 87:21	textbook 12:8 81:16
status 89:11,23 90:11	surgery 33:3 36:22 42:3,22 43:9 50:10,12,15 51:1 53:10,19,22,25 54:3,6,8,23,24 55:2 58:4,25 60:20 62:1 64:11,17,22 65:4,13 66:9 67:11 71:20,21,25 72:16 74:16,23 75:7,8,20 77:9,10 87:17 89:6 90:12 92:15,24	texts 12:19
stayed 57:12	surgical 12:10,15 32:25 34:9 35:5,10,12 59:23 62:3 67:16 91:18	Thank 8:1 21:10 41:19 65:22 66:25 93:7,8
steps 42:7,10 43:11,20	sworn 4:5 95:12,25	theirs 9:24
stool 57:16	symptomatic 92:7	themselves 88:12
stop 6:20	symptoms 53:2,20 54:22 55:1 56:1 58:14,20	theory 73:11
stopped 30:21		thereafter 32:24
stored 19:3		thereby 90:7
storing 13:21		therefore 82:9
straight 82:1		thereof 96:7
stretch 57:13,15		there's 5:16 45:16 57:19 68:5,24 69:2
strike 20:10 23:19 24:24 43:10 55:6 77:16		thereupon 96:1
stuff 5:21 8:12 45:15 89:22		thermal 59:5,8 62:14,17,20
submit 7:4,8 8:8 14:3		they're 10:7 11:6 14:1 32:14 34:15 45:11,16 88:19
submitted 59:17,18		they've 10:6
subscribe 11:22		thick 73:3
Subscribed 95:12		third 38:15 39:15 40:2,10,15,16,18 41:5,12 64:6
subsequent 24:5 34:12 37:22 56:15		thirties 90:2
successfully 36:16		tight 30:20
sued 27:1 28:2 30:7		till 70:4
suffer 50:15		timely 20:18 56:7
suffered 50:9 58:7 87:21 88:8		tip 58:10 63:4 72:15 74:2,5 80:1
Suite 2:7 4:13		tissue 59:15,22
summarization 22:8		
summarized 7:9		

T

today 17:1 20:10,11 26:2 41:3 47:22 61:7 79:2 80:22 86:25 87:8	63:2 67:4 68:22 81:12,15 89:4	95:10,20,22 96:9,12
top 78:17	ultrasound 35:20	visualization 34:9,21 36:18,22,25 37:22 40:11,17 43:23 83:3
totally 33:11	umbilical 46:5	visualized 37:18,19
town 6:8	umbilicus 46:1	vitae 3:12
track 16:7,9 26:13	underneath 61:25	vivid 93:2
training 41:23 82:3	undersigned 93:25	voluntarily 29:19,21
transcript 96:2	understand 7:15 12:5 14:15,18,23,24 28:12,24 37:14 45:5	
transcripts 19:19	48:12 52:18 54:10	W
transverse 79:23 80:16	55:24 57:13 58:3	wait 7:2
trapped 57:16	67:19 72:3 77:24 79:5	waited 46:21
travel 20:1	84:4 87:3 90:17	walked 41:3
traveling 89:8,18	91:13,17 93:3	wall 56:22 57:19 73:3,12 90:8
treat 36:2	understanding 30:19 59:21 64:2 90:4	wasn't 33:2,10 41:14 51:14 58:16 60:8,10 74:25 79:20,22,23
treated 91:7	understood 90:16	waste 20:20
treating 32:9	unfair 86:23	watch 74:6
tremendous 17:15	unhappy 16:21	ways 77:25
trial 4:19 17:19 19:23 29:12	unique 57:9	weaken 57:18,21
trip 88:20	unknowingly 56:13	weakening 73:11 77:21 78:7 90:8
trocar 36:17 37:5,6,16,25 38:15,16,17 39:11 40:2 45:11,18,19,22,23 46:1,9	unless 34:15 59:4	web 28:18
trocars 36:21 37:19,22 38:2,7,12 39:3	unusual 53:22,23	Webb 28:4
true 7:15 94:3 96:2	updated 29:6	week 10:4 41:21 44:14,15
trying 9:11 21:20 38:11 72:23 89:19 90:13,18	upon 34:13 35:9,20 37:1 38:19 51:3 60:22 61:3,23 67:20 72:22 82:3 83:11	weeks 44:16
turn 87:9	usual 9:6	welcome 21:11
turned 35:21	usually 7:10 9:1,5 10:2 32:9,10,14,17,24 33:25 44:2	we'll 21:8 49:17
turpitude 8:17	V	we're 11:5 14:11 28:14 35:12 69:9 74:3 78:9 85:7
TV 9:22,25	vaginal 9:17	Wetter 11:25
Twice 43:2	variants 82:5	we've 33:8 60:22 71:10
two-and-a-half 32:13	variations 81:24 83:7,12,15,17	Whatever 65:1
two-page 39:21	various 83:3	when's 74:13
two-year 7:3	vegetative 59:7 66:2	where's 48:6
type 47:1,2 73:2 78:10	ventral 24:9	whether 14:17 36:20 42:8 82:4
typed 48:10	verdict 28:6	whole 65:21
types 58:13	Veress 37:5,7	whom 15:15
Typical 82:1	versus 16:20	who's 90:19
typically 37:3	view 14:9 44:18 83:2	whose 18:3 21:18 25:21 69:24 70:5 76:3 95:23
U	views 18:14	willing 15:25
uh-huh 16:16 18:21 28:11 31:19 34:6 41:20 45:3 57:6	violated 18:3 25:22	wish 93:9
	violent 73:14	wit 95:10,20
	virgin 77:11	witnesses 3:13
	Virginia 1:1 2:3,4,8 4:11 9:18 10:10,11 18:17,20 28:19	woman 91:11

WOMEN 1:1
WOMEN'S 1:1
won 27:2,3,4,17
28:15 29:1,17
wondering 29:16
work 17:10,12 22:2
world 10:12,14 89:7
worst 43:5
write 8:18 48:3,4
writing 70:15,19
writings 12:20
written 6:18
wrong 29:3,9 55:4,5
87:13 90:4
wrote 15:21

Y

year-and-a-half
32:13,15
yellow 66:12
yield 46:12
you'll 59:5
young 89:25
yours 32:7 67:21 91:17
yourself 42:24 46:7
you've 7:20 12:2
17:6,15,22 18:1
24:3,15,16 25:16,18
26:4,17 32:5 35:3
38:5 41:24 65:7
80:7 83:11 84:19
86:14 88:9