VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH

BETTY CALDWELL,

Plaintiff,

raincill,

v. : AT LAW NO. : CL07-1477

CD07-14

GERTRUDE GREENE,

Defendant.

DE BENE ESSE

DEPOSITION UPON ORAL EXAMINATION

MICHAEL JOYNES, MD

August 11, 2009 -- 4:00 p.m.

Hampton, Virginia

APPEARANCES: SHAPIRO, COOPER, LEWIS & APPLETON, P.C.

By: James C. Lewis, Esquire, counsel for the Plaintiff.

LAMBERT & LAMBERT

By: Robert L. Lambert, Jr., Esquire,

counsel for the Defendant.

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- to do for us is to share with us your formal educational
- 2 background beginning with college that leads you up to be
- 3 qualified to be a medical practitioner?
- 4 A All right. I graduated with an undergraduate
- 5 degree with a BS in biology from VBI in 1970. I graduated
- from the Medical College of Virginia with an MD degree in
- 7 1974, and I graduated from the Riverside Family Practice
- 8 training program residency program in 1977.
- 9 Q Have you been continuously engaged in the practice
- of family medicine since that time?
- 11 A Yes, I have.
- 12 Q We are at your office in Hampton. What's that
- 13 professional address, Doctor?
- 14 A Nine Manhattan Square, Hampton, Suite A, 23666.
- Q And has your entire tenure as a practicing family
- 16 doctor been here in the Hampton area?
- 17 A In the Hampton area, yes.
- 18 O And, Doctor, in addition to your education are you
- 19 licensed to practice medicine by the Commonwealth of
- 20 Virginia?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q And are you also board certified in the field of
- family medicine?
- 24 A Yes.
- Q Would you share with our jury what board
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certification -- how do you get to be board certified and what it signifies about your level of skill and knowledge?

A In order to be board certified in family medicine you have to take an approved residency program and graduate from a residency program in family medicine and take the initial board exam after you graduate from the program, and then recertification is required every six years. It has changed recently so that the program for recertification now is every ten years, but because of that there have been additional requirements that have to be satisfied on a yearly basis in order to qualify for the ten-year certification.

Q And have you met all those requirements and qualifications?

A Yes. They're in progress. I have another on-line evaluation that has to be done this year.

MR. LEWIS: At this point in time I'm going to ask that the Court recognize Dr. Joynes as an expert in the field of family medicine qualified to render opinions in that area as they relate to Ms. Caldwell. Do you have any questions?

MR. LAMBERT: I have no questions or objections at this time.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you.

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- 1 BY MR. LEWIS:
- 2 Q Dr. Joynes, have you had an occasion to see Betty
- 3 Caldwell in your -- in your practice?
- 4 A Yes, I have.
- Q Can you tell us when she first became a patient of
- 6 yours?
- 7 A April 4th, 1979 is the first entry for our
- 8 practice.
- 9 Q Now, Doctor, we're here today about an automobile
- 10 collision that happened on September the 7th of 2003. Can
- 11 you tell our jury when the first time you saw Ms. Caldwell
- 12 following that date was?
- 13 A That would have been September the 8th, 2003.
- 14 Q And did you actually see her yourself on that day?
- 15 A I did.
- 16 Q Can you tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury
- what Ms. Caldwell told you that day about why she was here?
- 18 A Okay. She had been involved in a rear-end
- 19 collision in which the vehicle driven by the other driver
- was a '98 Mountaineer. She was in a '93 Thunderbird, and
- 21 this took place at the intersection of Route 10 and Turner
- Drive in Smithfield, Virginia. She had complaints of pain
- in the back of her head, shoulders and arm, some pain in the
- 24 small of her back.
- 25 She was taken by rescue squad to Riverside Old Dominion Reporting

Hospital at about 4:35 p.m. that day and received an x-ray at the emergency room as well as Motrin 600 milligrams and some other pain medication that apparently was causing her to have vomiting, and she was instructed to see us for

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follow-up.

- 6 When she saw me she was complaining of pain 7 under the shoulder blade and in her arm, lower back, head and neck, and I reviewed the accident report form and also 8 did a follow exam and noted that she had multiple sprain and 9 strain areas, prescribed Ibuprofen and Skelaxin and some 10 neck and back exercises and instructed her to return in 11 seven to ten days with earlier follow-up if she got any 12 13 worse. We discussed referral for physical therapy that she 14 declined at that time.
  - Q Doctor, what is Skelaxin and why did you prescribe it for Ms. Caldwell?
  - A It's a muscle relaxer that is basically a non-drowsy muscle relaxer.
    - Q Dr. Joynes, can you take a look at your chart and tell us whether or not the issue of a referral to physical therapy was revisited by you and this patient within the few days after she was seen here on the 8th?
    - A There was discussion of physical therapy 9/15/03.

      She was seen and said that her neck was somewhat better, but she was having a lot of pain in the thoracic and lumbar Old Dominion Reporting

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1 spine areas.

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- Q Let me interrupt you there, Doctor, and get you to
  explain for all of us what -- where geographically in your
  back the thoracic area is and the lumbar area is?
- 5 A Okay. The thoracic area is in the ribcage. The lumbar area is the lower back.
  - Q Okay. Please continue.
    - A And she told me that the Ibuprofen and Skelaxin really didn't seem to be helping her so I changed her from the Ibuprofen to Darvocet along with some Phenergan to help control nausea, and in my note it says physical therapy was arranged on that -- excuse me -- on that visit.
    - Q Would you tell us, Dr. Joynes, in Ms. Caldwell's case what physical therapy is and what it is intended to accomplish for a -- for a patient presenting with her history and her symptoms?
      - A The reason for the physical therapy is to try to reduce the pain as well as improve the mobility of the injured areas that -- that she was complaining about.
- Q Can you tell, Doctor, when she came back to see
  you after this -- this encounter was September 15th of '03?
- 22 A Uh-huh.
- 23 Q And when did she come back?
- 24 A Okay. She came back on September 29th, 2003.
- Q What did she tell you at that time about how she Old Dominion Reporting

was feeling?

A She said the lower back was better but that the back of the neck and the left shoulder blade area were worsening and that the two areas did not necessarily seem to be connected, you know, in -- you know, in the same series of pain. She also complained of having pain on the top of the left shoulder and occasionally somewhat down the left arm, an occasional tingling in the left arm and apparently normal strength.

- Q And did you -- did you do a physical examination on that day yourself?
- 12 A Yes, I did.
- Q What relevant findings did you appreciate as a result of that exam?
  - A Well, I did maneuvers or, you know, a range of motion on her neck. She did develop some pain in the shoulder when I did that. There seemed to be a little bit of weakness in her left triceps muscle compared to the right side on resistance testing.
- Q And would you tell us for those of us who are not doctors what the left triceps is?
  - A Okay. The triceps is -- is the muscle in the back part of the arm and it is responsible for extension of the -- of the elbow, and with resistance testing you just test their strength and while you're resisting that motion Old Dominion Reporting

- 1 to see -- comparing one side to the other.
- 2 Q And what is -- what was your medical plan for
- 3 Ms. Caldwell following your evaluation of her on
- 4 September 29th?
- 5 A To get an x-ray of her neck and also to
- 6 discontinue therapy to the neck but continue the therapy to
- 7 the back.
- 8 Q What was the x-ray to the neck? What purpose did
- 9 it serve in your medical view at that time for -- why did
- 10 you order it I think is what I'm trying to ask you?
- 11 A Because she was getting worse.
- 12 Q And why did you feel it appropriate to discontinue
- 13 neck physical therapy at that time?
- 14 A Because she was getting worse.
- Q Can you tell from reviewing your file, Dr. Joynes,
- when Ms. Caldwell returned to your -- to see you or to see
- 17 somebody in your office regarding her automobile accident?
- 18 A The next time that she came back for an office
- 19 visit -- she did not return for an office visit regarding
- 20 that injury. She was -- she was -- it was notated in the
- 21 chart that some communication took place between our office
- and the patient regarding results of x-rays.
- 23 Q Okay.
- 24 A And subsequently result of an MRI scan.
- Q And how was it that an MRI was ordered for this Old Dominion Reporting

- patient, Doctor?
- 2 A Because of her worsening symptoms.
- 3 Q And did you order that?
- 4 A Yes, I did.
- Q Can you explain for us from a family practice

  perspective why you -- you order the x-ray first, then you

  order an MRI. What's the difference between the two tests,

  and why did you subsequently follow up with the MRI after

  you knew the results of the x-ray?
  - A The plain x-ray you look for problems like fractures and dislocation. You can see degenerative joint problems and disk disease, but the MRI gives a more detailed view and it can show often if you're looking for like a pinched nerve or herniated disk. You can -- you can see the anatomy more well defined on an MRI.
  - Q Were you provided with the results of the MRI that you ordered?
- 18 A Yes.

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- 19 O Can you share with us what those were?
- 20 A Okay.
- 21 MR. LAMBERT: I'm going to object to this.
- Unless he's reviewed the actual films himself,
- 23 then it would be hearsay. I'm not exactly sure
- 24 what his testimony is going to be.
- 25 A The MRI, this is the report here that said there Old Dominion Reporting

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- 1 was -- had been a fusion at the sixth and seventh cervical
- 2 spine. There was some bone spur present at the cervical
- 3 fifth and cervical sixth.

- 5 BY MR. LEWIS:
- 6 Q Cervical being what part of the spine, Doctor?
- 7 A The neck.
- 8 Q Okay.
- 9 A And there was some narrowing in the foramena,
- 10 which is the opening where the nerves exit from -- from the
- cervical spine, and this was noted bilaterally left more so
- 12 than right.
- 13 Q Doctor, as a -- after --
- MR. LAMBERT: Let me just renew my objection
- 15 because I don't want to keep interrupting.
- MR. LEWIS: No, I'm going to give you a
- 17 standing objection. I'm going to try it cure it
- 18 here.

19

- 20 BY MR. LEWIS:
- 21 Q Doctor, when you send your patients out for an MRI
- are you routinely provided with a copy of the report
- 23 prepared by the radiologist who read the MRI?
- 24 A Yes.
- Q And do you rely on the contents of those reports?

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- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q In the management and treatment of your patient
- 3 population?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q And did you rely on it in the management and
- 6 treatment of Ms. Caldwell?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q As a result of the information you gathered from
- 9 that MRI did you make a referral to a specialist in her
- 10 case?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q And would you tell us, number one, what type of
- 13 specialist you sent her to?
- 14 A I made a referral to a neurosurgeon.
- 15 Q And why did you feel it medically appropriate at
- that time to send this patient out to a specialist in the
- 17 field of neurosurgery?
- 18 A Because of her symptoms and the findings that went
- 19 along with it on the MRI.
- 20 Q And as far as you know, Dr. Joynes, did
- 21 Ms. Caldwell follow your instructions and see a
- 22 neurosurgeon?
- A Yes.
- 24 Q Are you able to tell us that fellow's name?
- 25 A Dr. Garner, Dr. Wallace Garner.
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- 1 Q Do you know Dr. Garner?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q You've made referrals to him in the past?
- 4 A Yes. Uh-huh.
- 5 Q And to your knowledge did Dr. Garner evaluate the
- 6 patient?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q As a result of his evaluation did you suggest to
- 9 Ms. Caldwell that she get an operation?
- 10 A Did I suggest that?
- 11 Q Yes, sir.
- 12 A No, sir. No.
- Q Can you tell us once she sees -- let me try to
- make this a little easier. From what I can tell,
- Dr. Joynes, Dr. Garner saw Ms. Caldwell on November the 7th
- 16 of 2003?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q And he sent you the results of his exam?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q What contact did you have with Ms. Caldwell about
- 21 her automobile accident related issues after you heard back
- 22 from Dr. Garner?
- 23 A There was a call regarding some insurance issues.
- 24 Q We are not allowed to talk about insurance in
- front of a jury so I'm going to reask the question and try
  Old Dominion Reporting

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- 1 to answer it, but leave out anything that has to do with
- 2 insurance.
- 3 A Oh, okay.
- 4 Q Can you tell us after you heard back from
- 5 Dr. Garner when the next time you heard from or had contact
- 6 with Ms. Caldwell that related to her -- the automobile
- 7 collision we're here to talk about today?
- 8 A She made a phone call to the office on March 19th,
- 9 2004 requesting Darvocet for pain from the injuries.
- 10 Q Does your chart reflect what that pain was
- 11 attributed to?
- 12 A Yes, it does.
- 13 O To what, tell us?
- 14 A Well, the note here says that the patient has
- requested Darvocet for neck, shoulder and upper arm pain as
- a result of auto accident from September. Saw Dr. Garner at
- 17 that time. MRI showed bulging disk, C4-C5. Ibuprofen not
- 18 helping.
- 19 MR. LAMBERT: Let me just state my objection
- on several levels. I'm going to object to the
- 21 hearsay if he didn't obtain this note and didn't
- 22 speak to her. It's also self-serving hearsay.
- These are statements supposedly over the
- 24 telephone by the plaintiff. In addition to the
- 25 hearsay from supposedly from Dr. Garner I guess
  Old Dominion Reporting

- this is some type of diagnosis or evaluation, so
- 2 I'd object.
- 3 MR. LEWIS: And for the record I'm not going
- 4 to address your objection about Dr. Garner. It's
- 5 probably well stated, but I do think he's
- 6 entitled to testify as to what the lady said to
- 7 whoever took down the message vis-à-vis why she
- 8 was calling.

- 10 BY MR. LEWIS:
- 11 Q Doctor, the document you're referring to is part
- of Ms. Caldwell's medical chart?
- 13 A Yes.
- Q And is maintained by you and your office in the
- ordinary and regular course of the practice of medicine in
- 16 this office?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q And the type of entry you've just referred to is
- 19 routinely made by your office staff?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q And relied upon you -- relied upon by you in
- formulating your medical plan of care and treatment for
- Ms. Caldwell?
- 24 A Yes. Yes.
- Q All right. At the time she called, what was the Old Dominion Reporting

- date on that again?
- 2 A March 19th, 2004.
- 3 Q Did she register any complaints of continued neck
- 4 and back pain relative to this auto accident?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q All right. Was a --
- 7 MR. LAMBERT: Object to the leading, but I
- 8 know where you're going with it.
- 9 MR. LEWIS: Well, you want me to rephrase
- it? I'll be glad to.
- 11 MR. LAMBERT: No. Just stop leading.
- MR. LEWIS: All right. I will.

- 14 BY MR. LEWIS:
- 15 Q Doctor, as a result of that contact with your
- office can you tell us whether or not she was provided with
- 17 a refill or a new prescription for pain medication?
- 18 A She was.
- 19 Q Dr. Joynes, as best you can tell, has Ms. Caldwell
- 20 been back to see you or anybody else in your office for
- 21 accident-related issues?
- 22 A No, she has not.
- 23 Q Since March of 2004?
- 24 A No.
- 25 Q Doctor, have all the opinions you've shared -Old Dominion Reporting
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1	strike that. Let me back up.		
2	Doctor, in your opinion to a reasonable		
3	degree of medical probability have you formulated an opinion		
4	as to what caused the symptoms that Ms. Caldwell complained		
5	about and the symptoms that you treated as you've described		
6	for us here today?		
7	A Yes. I feel like the accident, the trauma that		
8	she sustained did result in these symptoms.		
9	Q And in your opinion, Doctor, to a reasonable		
10	degree of medical certainty, was the care and treatment		
11	rendered by you, your medical team and those persons to whom		
12	you referred her, both radiology and Dr. Garner, reasonably		
13	medically necessary as a result of this collision?		
14	A Yes.		
15	Q And, Doctor, have all the opinions that you have		
16	shared with us here today been to a reasonable degree of		
17	medical certainty?		
18	A Yes.		
19	MR. LEWIS: I think that's all the questions		
20	I have for you. If you would be so kind as to		
21	answer Mr. Lambert.		
22			

23 CROSS-EXAMINATION

24

25

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- 1 BY MR. LAMBERT:
- 2 Q Dr. Joynes, you've already testified that
- 3 Ms. Caldwell had been a patient in this practice since the
- 4 late seventies?
- 5 A Uh-huh.
- 7 A Yes, sir.
- 8 Q And she has been treated in your practice for
- 9 various ailments, colds, typical things you see family
- 10 practice practitioners for?
- 11 A Yes, sir.
- 12 Q And in particular Ms. Caldwell's case, you were
- specifically asked about the fact that when she first came
- to see you after this reported accident of September of
- 15 '03 to which you've testified; correct?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q Now, and one of the things she was -- she came to
- you complaining about eventually was her neck pain and some
- pain or symptoms going into her left arm?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q In fact, that was not the -- in fact, Ms. Caldwell
- had presented to your practice and made those similar
- complaints before this reported accident of September of
- 24 '03?
- 25 A I -- I don't have -- do you want me to check and Old Dominion Reporting

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Page 21
 1
         see?
 2
                   Yes, sir.
              Q
              Α
                    Oh, okay.
 3
 4
                   MR. LEWIS: Why don't you give him a date?
              Would probably be easier for him to navigate his
 5
 6
              chart.
         BY MR. LAMBERT:
 8
                    Okay. And, Doctor, first -- the first incident to
 9
              0
         which I'm referring was back in '93, more specifically
10
         December 2nd, 1993.
11
                   Let's see here. December 2nd, 1993?
12
13
              Q
                   Yes, sir.
14
              Α
                   Yes.
                   And at that time she was -- there was some
15
              0
         complaint to you that she had had some neck pain and some
16
         pain going into -- down the left arm; is that correct?
17
18
              Α
                   Yes.
                   And also the left scapular area?
19
20
              Α
                   Right.
21
                   Left scapular area, would that also be located in
              Q
         the back in the thoracic area?
22
23
                    Shoulder blade.
              Α
24
                   Shoulder blade?
              Q
25
                    Uh-huh.
              Α
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- 1 Q Wouldn't that classify as being the thoracic area?
- 2 A Uh-huh.
- 4 A Yes. I'm sorry.
- 5 Q You mentioned -- you had described for us
- 6 previously what the thoracic area was?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q Now, and apparently she had also reported to you
- 9 that that dated back to an accident she had been involved in
- 10 back in 1975?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q And but again we're talking December '93 she came
- and mentioned to you she had some kind of flare-up of that
- 14 symptom; is that correct?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q Now, moving ahead, now, apparently she underwent
- 17 some -- a surgery in 1994 related to those symptoms?
- 18 A In 1994?
- 19 O Correct. Or December of 1993, Doctor, in that
- time frame? And, Doctor, I'm looking at I guess -- yours
- 21 may be a cover sheet.
- 22 A Yeah. There's some notation here that she
- 23 underwent a disk operation in December of 1993.
- 24 Q And, Doctor, as part of -- part of y'all's
- 25 recordkeeping, y'all kind of keep a past medical history and Old Dominion Reporting

- 1 keep a running history on your individual patients?
- 2 A Uh-huh.
- 3 Q And you would have done that in the case of
- 4 Ms. Caldwell as well?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q And in addition to that diskectomy in 1993 part of
- 7 her history was also an HNP '96; is that correct?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q HNP would designate what?
- 10 A I believe that reference is to a herniated nucleus
- 11 pulposus.
- 12 Q And that would be a disk?
- 13 A Herniated disk.
- 14 Q Now, as a result of -- and that would have been
- 15 obviously approximately three years after this surgery we
- 16 just discussed in '93?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 O Now, and I also note in reference to that -- that
- time frame of '96 in that area in your initial consultation
- with Ms. Caldwell after this accident of September 2003 you
- 21 apparently took a -- had her fill out a pretty fairly
- 22 extensive history sheet about why she was there to see you
- 23 that day; is that correct?
- A On September the 8th, 2003?
- Q Yes, sir.

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- 1 A Yes, sir.
- 2 Q And on that particular information sheet one of
- 3 the things you talked about, have you ever had any similar
- 4 previous injury or pain in the same area of your body. It's
- 5 one of the things you asked?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q And, in fact, she references that, a ruptured disk
- 8 from six years ago or previous?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q And indicated she had had similar symptoms before
- 11 this accident; is that true?
- 12 A Let's see. Yes.
- Q And those symptoms had occurred by her history
- after she had had that surgery in '93?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q Now, when she did come to you after the accident,
- 17 that initial visit on September 8th of 2003, I believe the
- terminology you used is your assessment was she had multiple
- 19 sprains, strains; is that correct?
- 20 A Right.
- Q And when you're talking about that, you're talking
- 22 muscle strains and sprains?
- 23 A Uh-huh.
- Q Of the areas of the body?
- 25 A Yes, sir.

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- 1 Q And after that initial assessment you had sent
- 2 her -- sent her on her way but she did come back to y'all's
- office, and again another assessment was done on
- 4 September 15th; is that -- is that right?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q And then at that time you just -- the assessment
- 7 was just some spasms and that would be muscle spasms?
- 8 A Uh-huh. Yes.
- 9 Q And then finally she -- with regard to this
- 10 accident that occurred in September '03 the last time she
- was seen in your office -- actually seen in your office with
- regard to any complaints associated with this accident was
- 13 September 29th of '03?
- 14 A That's correct.
- 15 O And at that time the assessment was cervical
- 16 complaint and arm complaints; is that correct?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 O Now, when she -- after September 29th of '03 she
- was seen in y'all's office for other matters. When I say
- 20 "other matters," for sinus problems?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q Things of that nature, sore throats; is that
- 23 correct?
- 24 A Yes, sir.
- Q And that would have occurred in January of '04 she Old Dominion Reporting

- was in for sore throat, something of that nature; is that correct?
- 3 A Correct.
- Q No mention or any discussion about her -- any neck complaints, pain complaints or back complaints?
- 6 A No.
- Q She was also seen May 11th of '04, and that was for an earache?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q And no discussion about back complaints or neck
  11 complaints or anything of that nature?
- 12 A No.
- 13 Q Now, you were asked about -- strike that. And
  14 you've already indicated that she -- strike that.
- MR. LAMBERT: I have no further questions.

## 17 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

18

- 19 BY MR. LEWIS:
- Q Dr. Joynes, Mr. Lambert asked you about some
  complaints Ms. Caldwell had about neck pain back a decade
  before this accident and about a surgery that she had about
  a decade before this accident, and he also asked you about a
  1996 visit where she complained of some neck pain but he
  didn't ask you about any visits between 1996 and September

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         the 8th, 2003 regarding neck pain. Is that because there
 1
 2
         weren't any?
 3
                   I don't see any references to her complaints or to
              Α
         her complaining of neck pain during that time frame.
 4
                               Thank you, sir. That's all the
 5
                   MR. LEWIS:
 6
              questions I have.
                   MR. LAMBERT: No further questions.
 7
                   MR. LEWIS: Doctor, you have the right to
 8
              read and sign this deposition when it's typed up
 9
              or you can waive that right if you'd like.
10
11
                   THE WITNESS: I don't care.
12
13
                   (The witness was excused.)
14
15
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1 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA AT LARGE, To-Wit:	
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5 I, Shannon A. Crittenden-Mann, a Notary	
6 Public in and for the Commonwealth of Virginia at	
7 Large, whose commission expires May 31, 2012, certify	
8 that the foregoing de bene esse deposition of MICHAEL H	ł.
9 JOYNES, MD, was duly taken and sworn to before me at	
10 the time and place for the purpose in the caption	
11 mentioned, and that the foregoing is a true and	
12 correct transcript to the best of my ability of the	
13 testimony given by the witness.	
I further certify that I am not a relative or	<u>.</u>
employee of attorney or counsel of any of the parties	
or financially interested in the action.	
17 Given under my hand this day of	
18	
19	
20	
21	
Notary Public	
24 Registration No. 21703	6
25 Old Dominion Reporting	
Telephone: (757) 620 6836 Facsimile: (757) 255 4397	