



Thomas Jefferson University
Jefferson University Physicians

May 4, 2006
RE: HAL BACKER
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May 4, 2006

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OFFICE NOTE

RE: Hal Backer

Mr. Backer returns for his postoperative check. He is pain-free. The caudal portion of the wound reveals a small what appears to be CSF leak. This was sterilely prepped and resutured in the office. I will see him back in one week's time for wound check.

David W. Andrews, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Professor of Neurosurgery
Director, Division of Neuro-Oncologic Neurosurgery

This is one of many documents that exist from my medical file while a patient at Jefferson hospital in 2006. As you can see these are office notes from a visit that took place on May 4, 2006. This was a scheduled office visit as a result of an operation approximately two weeks earlier. It was a brain operation to correct a problem known as Trigeminal Neuralgia. While home recovering for two weeks, I experienced what I thought was sweat or dampness on my neck. When I returned to the doctor's office on May 4, Dr. Andrews examined the wound site and said it wasn't sweat or water but a CSF leak. His notes describe what he did next.

I was not stitched up correctly at the conclusion of the operation and for two weeks I had been leaking spinal fluid and was unaware of this. He knew I had an open wound to my brain and spine for two weeks but he still just put a single stitch in my scalp and sent me home. Those actions proved to be near fatal as less than 40 hours later I collapsed in my bedroom with bacterial meningitis. Fortunately my wife was home and rushed me to Abington hospital where they saved my life. They did treat me for bacterial meningitis which they confirmed from a spinal tap. **I had a serious brain infection and Dr. Andrews just stitched me up and sent me home. He knew I had an open wound to my brain and spine for two weeks and this is what he did.**

To read more about this tragedy go to www.jeffersonmedicaltragedy.blogspot.com