

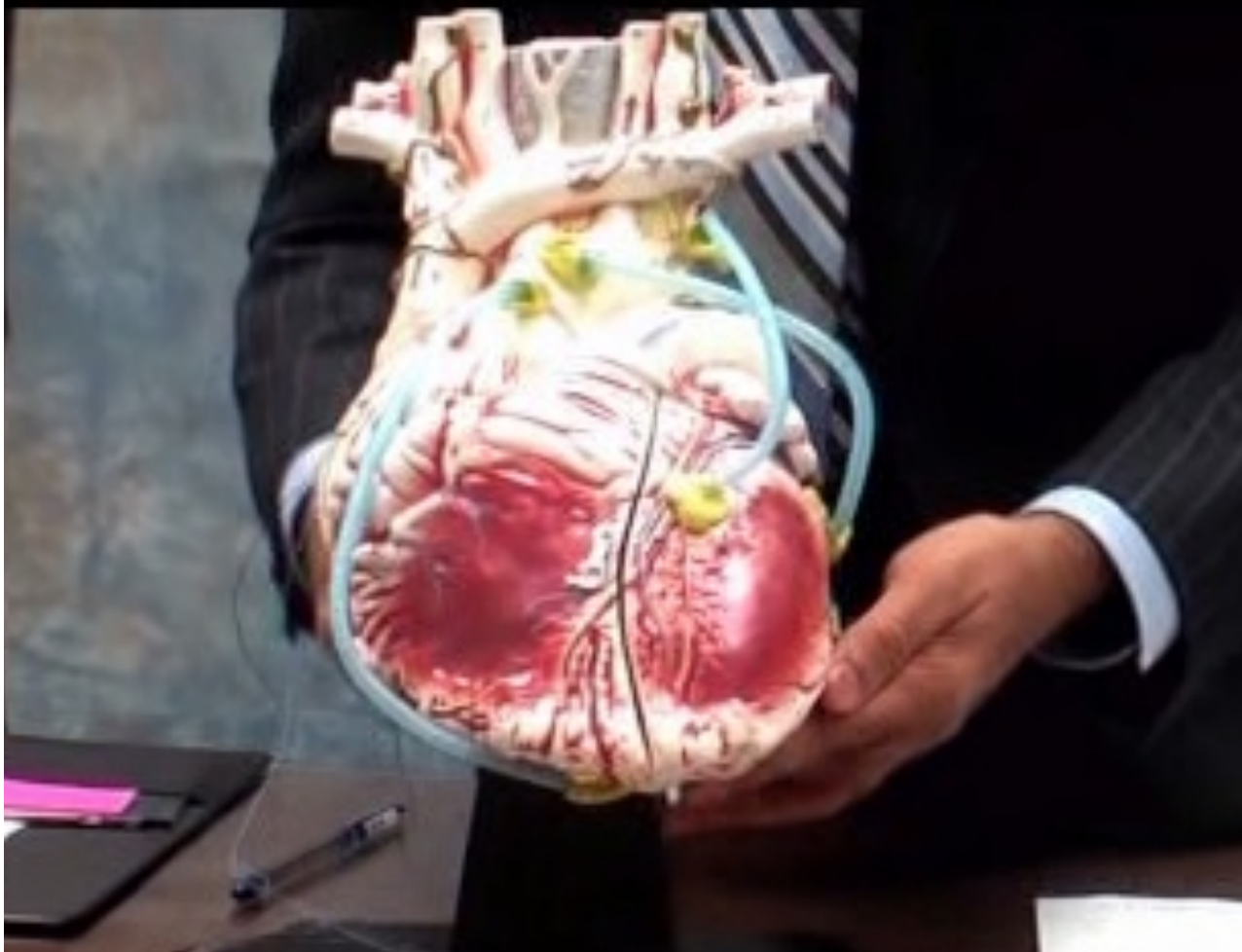
# SAFETY RULE FOR DOCTORS

- A doctor must pay **careful attention** during an operation
- If a doctor does not pay **careful attention** during an operation, the doctor is responsible for the injuries caused

# WHY ARE WE HERE?

- To hold Dr. Owen Hill responsible for the suffering and death and for a daughter's loss of her mother

# THIS OPERATION



# BREACH OF THE STANDARD OF CARE

- What went wrong?
  - Dr. Hill failed to pay **careful attention** when the pacing wires were put in chest
  - The wires were placed improperly
  - When the wires were pulled, her graft was cut and she died

PROCEDURES DONE:

Mediastinal reexploration, repair of right coronary artery graft, and placement of intra-aortic balloon pump. Closure of the chest using a football technique.

PREOPERATIVE:

The patient had a laceration on the right chest wall, approximately 1 cm short of the right axilla, extending down to the level of the 5th rib. At this time, the patient was stable.

**“There was a long laceration in the right coronary artery graft caused probably by the pacing wire. The laceration was bleeding profusely...”**

OPERATIVE:

OPERATIVE:  
A laceration was noted in the right coronary artery graft. The laceration was repaired with Prolene suture. The patient was stable at this stage. This stage was done.

Also, an intra-aortic balloon pump was now inserted through the right common femoral artery. The position of the balloon was confirmed with 2D echo and, at this stage, the patient was taken to the ICU in critical condition.

Unreviewed - Pending Electronic Signature

# WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE SURGERY?

- Dr. – Surgeon
- Mr. – Surgical Tech
- Mr. – Surgical Tech

# WHO PLACED THE WIRES IN CHEST?

- Dr. ? → Does not know
- Mr. ? →
- Mr. ? →

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- Mr.? → Does not know
- Mr. ? →



# WHO PLACED THE WIRES IN CHEST?

- Dr. ? → Does not know
- Mr. ? → Does not know
- Mr. ? → “I do not recall.”

AFFIDAVIT OF [REDACTED]

I, [REDACTED] hereby affirm under the penalties of perjury that I am over the age of 18, competent to testify as to the matters set forth in this affidavit, and state that the below statements are true and accurate and based upon my personal knowledge:

1. That I am a surgical assistant and I was one of the surgical assistants who assisted Dr. [REDACTED] during [REDACTED]'s open heart surgery on [REDACTED] at [REDACTED].

3. That I do not recall which person in the operating room inserted pacing wires into [REDACTED]'s heart during the operation on [REDACTED] and I cannot testify where the pacing wires were actually placed in [REDACTED]'s heart.

4. That during the occasions where I assisted Dr. [REDACTED] during open heart surgeries, I only insert pacing wires into a patient's heart at the specific direction of and under the supervision of Dr. [REDACTED].

5. That after [REDACTED], I have not spoken to Dr. [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] regarding [REDACTED]'s surgery or the events surrounding her death.

6. That I was not present in [REDACTED]'s Hospital Room on [REDACTED], during the code blue event.

# HOW MANY WIRES WERE PLACED?

- Dr. ? → Does not know
- Mr.? → Does not know
- Mr.? → Does not know

# PULLING OF PACING WIRES

FEBRUARY 6, 2011

When wires are properly placed, removal is simple

- Routine
- Done by RN
- Bed-side, no OR
- No doctor's orders
- No doctor needed
- Not a life threatening procedure
- Never expected this to happen
- 1,000 times before; no injury

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE WIRES  
WERE PULLED?

Due to (or as a consequence of):

BLEEDING FROM GRAFT INJURY

Due to (or as a consequence of):

Handwritten scribbles and initials.

Home  Residence  Other (Specify)

28d. Describe how injury occurred

WHILE REMOVAL OF PACING WIRES

28f. Location (Street and Number or Rural Route Number, City or Town, State)

1  Yes 2  No

27. Manner of Death

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Natural             | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Pending      |
| 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accident | Investigation                           |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Suicide             | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Could not be |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Homicide            | determined                              |

# EXPERT

- She died, because the wires were improperly placed
- If the wires were properly placed, she lives

# DEFENSE WITNESS

- Assumes – wires properly placed
  - Admits no knowledge of wire placement to support his theory
- Assumes – heart changes size
  - Admits no evidence in the chart to support his theory
- Assumes – graft and wires were not touching
  - Admits no evidence in the chart to support his theory





# VERDICT SHEET

What amount of damages do you find for The Estate?

a. Funeral Expenses: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

b. Non-Economic Damages: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

What amount of damages do you find for daughter?

a. Non-Economic Damages: \$ \_\_\_\_\_