



September 10, 2001

Vanu Gopal, M.D.
Chief Forensic Pathologist
County of Fresno
760 West Nielsen Avenue
Fresno, CA 93708

Highly Confidential (Lawyer)
Health Services

RE: Death of Linde Adanagian

Department of Pathology

Division of Clinical Pathology
P.O. Box 800751
Fresno, Fresno 93788-0751

Dear Dr. Gopal

At your request I have reviewed the following material:

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1. Community Medical Center Emergency Room records of (2/11/00).
2. Saint Agnes Medical center records.
3. Dr. Albert Siu, Fresno County Coroner's autopsy report (4/26/00).
4. National Medical Services report (2/5/01).
5. Dr. Allen P. Burke, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology report (11/1/00).
6. Dr. Steven H. Chooljian's letter (5/18/00).
7. Dr. William D. Edwards', Mayo Clinic pathology report (3/23/00).
8. Dr. Gerald J. Berry, Stanford Pathology Consultants report (8/12/00).
9. Dr. Nellis A. Smith, Cardiovascular Medicine report (3/5/00).
10. Dr. Vanu Gopal deposition transcript excerpts (5/26/00).
11. Dr. David Hadden affidavits (5/24/00).
12. Mineral King Laboratory reports (2/25/00, 2/29/00, 3/8/00, 5/19/00, 1/11/01, 1/31/01, 3/23/01).
13. Cargille Laboratories, Inc. report (3/14/00).
14. Mayo Clinic autopsy toxicology reports (6/15/00, 7/3/00).
15. Mayo Clinic analysis reports (1/4/01, 2/5/01).
16. Dr. Henry a. Spiller report and letters (1/12/01, 2/21/01, 4/6/01, 5/11/01, 7/2/01).
17. Dr. Eric A. Pfeifer reports (2/12/01, 5/11/01).
18. Dr. Bernard Eisenga and John Trestreil III report (3/23/01).

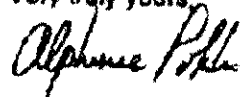
19. Dr. George F. Jackson, National Medical Services expert report (4/25/01).
20. Dr. Richard F. Cisek report (4/12/01)
21. Dr. G. N. Schrauzer report (5/25/01).
22. Dr. Raymond F. Burk report (4/16/01).
23. Dr. Kern Nuttall report (5/7/01).

Many of the above noted reports and records have detailed the history and postmortem finding in the death of Linda Adanalian. Additionally, many of these prior reports have provided an extensive review of selenium poisoning including published articles. I believe it is unnecessary to repeat in detail the particulars of this case of Selenium poisoning. Therefore, having reviewed these records and reports, I offer the following brief observations and opinions based upon my education, knowledge and 30 years experience in forensic toxicology:

1. **Case History:** Briefly, prior to her death Ms. Linda Adanalian was a healthy 37 year old female without a significant past medical history. On the day of her death, she experienced nausea, diarrhea and a general malaise that in the evening progressed to an episode of syncope and development of chest pains and difficulty in breathing. Following admission to the hospital her condition rapidly deteriorated to multi-organ failure and death.
2. **Autopsy Findings:** The initial autopsy findings were unremarkable and did not disclose a cause for her death. Later the body was exhumed for a second autopsy including special cardiopathology studies. No gross or histopathologic cause of death was evident. However, extensive toxicology studies demonstrated significantly elevated concentrations of selenium in the tissues tested; kidney, liver, lung, and spleen.
3. There are no specific clinical signs or symptoms, nor routine clinical laboratory tests that may be considered pathognomic for acute Selenium poisoning. However, Selenium is capable of producing the rapid development of multi-organ failure and death as displayed by Mrs. Adanalian.
4. The lack of specific histopathologic findings is consistent with death from many poisons, including Selenium.
5. The postmortem Selenium concentrations in both fresh and dry tissues obtained from Mrs. Adanalian are consistent with values reported in previous cases of Selenium poisoning. The lack of a significantly elevated concentration of selenium in her hair samples is consistent with an acute exposure.

8 Given, the lack of prior significant medical history, the rapid onset of fatal illness, the lack of significant gross or histopathologic finding at autopsy and the toxicology test results in this case, it is my opinion that the death of Mrs. Linda Adensten is consistent with acute Selenium poisoning.

Very truly yours,



Alphonse Poidis, Ph.D.
Director, MCVH Toxicology Lab