

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH J. ROGER EDSON, M.D.

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We discussed the medical, social, and legal needs of John Heurung.

Sitting in his automobile for a prolonged period of time is likely to be partly responsible for the initiation of the coagulopathy.

John may also have had another pre-existing problem that made coagulopathy more likely. A lupus inhibitor was found in October, 1990 on additional testing, and the speckled FANA would go with this. This phospholipid antibody is positive and could be an autoimmune phenomenon. It is not known for sure, but it is likely to have existed earlier, before the actual testing confirmed it.

I described the red, painful, sudden lesions that I have observed, and Doctor Edson thought this was pretty much a description of Psychogenic Purpura. The sudden leg cramps may have also been related to this.

Doctor Edson related to me that acute stress can affect the Von Willebrand factor -- and this can lead to an increase in clotting of one's blood.

Chronic stress is another mechanism that can lead to clotting of blood, and if this were the case, there would be multiple factors present.

Concerns of Doctor Edson:

He is struggling somewhat with the disability rating assessment. In his work at the university, he is frequently in a position to see extremely disabled people who have great losses, and it is hard for him to compare this with someone who is ambulatory and capable of mostly normal function.

He is also unable to say with medical certainty what is the cause of the coagulopathy experienced by John Heurung. The automobile trip was probably a factor, and perhaps a pre-existing autoimmune factor was also present. Therefore, it is somewhat hard to say with medical certainty what is the cause of this coagulopathy. It is hard for him to say that only the work stress was the main factor in Joh's disease.

He does agree that I am in a better position to evaluate his various stressors, whether they come from work or other psychosocial factors. He is able to defer to me as a stress expert and as one who has more intimate knowledge of stresses and their effect on this particular patient.

We discussed the difference between the medical certainty and legal certainty and that the latter could mean that something is more likely than not. He said that he is willing to be cooperative in helping with the expert medical testimony in order to serve the legal needs.