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V-05-174

SAUTER, Joyce

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may have access to her private medical information and she wrote "Raymond Sauter, spouse and Dr. Elias Lehaf".

Chest x-ray performed on 05-05-05 showed that the mass in the left lower lobe now measured 12 cm. in diameter. (Bayshore Community Health Services Radiology 000000096205). Thus, this mass increased in diameter by 4 cm. in comparison to the chest x-ray performed on 01-26-05. The chest x-ray performed on 05-05-05 also showed that the mass in the right lower lobe measured 4.4 cm. The chest x-ray performed on 01-26-05 stated that at the time this mass measured 3.8 cm.

PET CT scan performed on 05-06-05 showed changes in the right skull base, in a left rib, and in the right ischium suspicious for metastatic disease to bone (Advanced Medical Imaging of Old Bridge). Summary of findings by consultant Mario G. Arredondo, M.D., of Freehold MR Associates interprets the findings of imaging studies of Joyce Sauter as follows: The left upper lobe is atelectatic. The uptake in the left lower lobe extends from the hilum of the lung out to the pleural parenchymal margin. Thus, the findings indicate diffuse infiltrative neoplasm throughout the left lower lobe. There is also a large mass in the right lower lobe, mediastinal adenopathy, left adrenal gland metastases measuring 2.1 cm. in greatest dimension, and numerous skeletal masses are seen. The adrenal mass has increased in size in comparison to a previous study. This study also shows increased activity in the right anterior acetabular region in comparison to a previous PET scan.

Joyce Sauter developed very severe back pain due to metastases to her spine. She was admitted to Bayshore Community Hospital on 07-27-05 by Dr. Elias Lehaf because of the severity of the back pain. Mrs. Sauter was examined by orthopedic consultant Dr. Marshall Allegra because she had a compression fracture of her spine. Bone scan performed on 07-29-05 showed multiple areas of increased activity in the thoracic vertebra indicative of new foci of metastatic disease of the spine. These areas of increased activity in the thoracic spine were not present in the previous imaging study performed in May 05. She was discharged from Bayshore Community Hospital on 07-29-05 and was prescribed Duragesic 50 mg. q 72 hours and morphine sulfate 20 mg. every four hours p.r.n. On 08-25-05, Mrs. Sauter underwent imaging study of the spine again at Bayshore Community Hospital which showed an acute compression fracture of L1 vertebra which was not present in the studies performed in July 05. The back pain persisted and a radiation oncologist, Dr. Chon, was consulted. Brian H. Chon, M.D., administered palliative radiation therapy directed to her spine from 08-31-05 to 09-15-05. This radiation therapy resulted in some improvement in her back pain.

On 09-29-05, Elias Lehaf, M.D., signed a hospice certification and plan of care form. This hospice statement is as follows: "Based on my clinical expertise and in consultation with the Central New Jersey hospice Interdisciplinary Team, I certify that the above named patient has a terminal illness with a prognosis of six months or less if the illness runs its course".

In summary, the physicians involved in the medical care of Joyce Sauter's malignant disease (Dr. Lehaf, Dr. Gopal, and Dr. Soffen) all agreed that she had incurable disease. Imaging studies

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