

Statement of Janardan Prasad Dhasmana

Re: Mrs Janet Isabel Edwards

1. I Janardan Prasad Dhasmana served the Bristol Royal Infirmary and the Children Hospital as a Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon from 1st January 1986 to 9th September 1998. I am making this statement in response to a statement by Mrs Janet Isabel Edwards to the Bristol Royal Infirmary Public Inquiry. I looked after Sophie, her daughter in April 1993.
2. I saw Sophie for the first time on 2-4-93 at the Children Hospital who was investigated and referred by her Cardiologist Dr Steve Jordan (page MR 0397 0010). Sophie was born on 31st March at the North Devon District Hospital Barnstaple and transferred to the Bristol Children Hospital for further management with clinical diagnosis of Transposition of Great Arteries (TGA). She underwent balloon septostomy on arrival and at the same time was investigated by a cardiac catheterisation and angiogram (page MR 0397 0032-0034). The 2-D Echo, Catheter and Angiographic data were reviewed together. The unusual coronary artery pattern was noticed but it was thought possible to perform an Arterial Switch procedure on her (page MR 0397 0026).
3. I visited Sophie and her mother on 2-4-93 for a preoperative meeting and discussion. I would have examined Sophie and then explained the nature and risks associated with the procedure to her mother. Mrs Edwards is right, when she says that I mentioned that this was a new operation (page 3 paragraph 10 of her statement). I do not think that I would have used the term "reinvented", instead, I would have stated that this operation was now being introduced here at Bristol and pointed to the baby recovering from this operation. I would have explained the operation with the help of diagrams and would have certainly mentioned the coronary abnormality. I do not agree that I would have given Sophie's mortality figures as 1 in 5. At that time I was giving mortality figures of 25 to 30% and as the coronary abnormality was known, I would have put figures around 30%.