

STATEMENT OF JENNIFER ANN MANFIELD

the exact details of the condition and they would be able to operate without any difficulty. Mr Dhasmana said that Brad's next check up would take place in about 3 months time, and I believe we were given the appointment before we left.

12. Brad's Continuing Development

Our next check up was due in April 1995. In the meantime, Brad continued to develop normally. He was not yet walking or making any attempt to do so, but he performed an excellent "commando crawl". As he was our first child, we had little to compare him with. However, he did seem to be developing normally. He may have been a little slow in attaining his milestones, but he did achieve them.

13. Informed of Brad's Admission

We were surprised when, on Saturday 1st April 1995, an appointment came through for Brad to be admitted for his operation on Friday 7th April 1995. Brad was 14 months rather than the 16-18 months at which Mr Dhasmana had indicated he would undergo the operation. The letter informed us that Brad would remain in hospital for 7-10 days. I remember his MMR injection was due to be carried out on 7th April but I cancelled this because of the operation. We were not in contact with families of other children who were undergoing cardiac surgery and we found the run-up to the operation to be very worrying and stressful.

14. BBC News Programme

Our anxiety increased when we watched the 6 o'clock news on BBC South West on Tuesday evening 4th April 1995. The presenter Michael Burke read out a story concerning problems

Signed *J.A. Manfield*

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with paediatric cardiac surgery at the BRI. Stuart and I were very shocked, and Stuart rang BBC South West in Bristol to try and get more information. Someone at BBC South West told Stuart that the problems related to two types of operation - they described the arterial switch and another procedure.

15. Mr Dhasmana's Secretary

I telephoned Mr Dhasmana's secretary on a number of occasions the next day. When I got through, I asked whether I should still bring Brad in for the operation. She tried to reassure me by telling me that, as a child, she had undergone the same operation as Brad.

16. Further News Coverage

There was further television coverage on Thursday 6th April 1995 on the BBC "Close up West" programme. The programme contained criticisms of Mr Wisheart, so we felt and hoped that there were no problems concerning Mr Dhasmana, who was represented on the programme as being a very good surgeon. Stuart and I both felt that if Mr Wisheart was about to operate on Brad, we would not have allowed the operation to go ahead. With a great deal of apprehension therefore we decided to carry on and we took Brad in to the BRI on Friday 7th April 1995.

17. Outcome

We continued in the belief that Brad would live or die and that there was no other possible outcome. Brain damage or other injury or mishap had not been mentioned and we did not entertain it as a possibility. This may have been naive on our part, but neither I or my

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husband knew that this kind of injury could occur, and we did not know what questions to ask.

18. Before the Operation

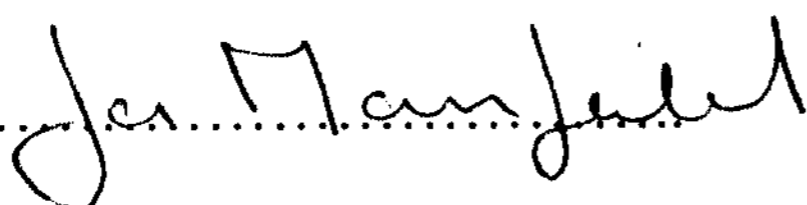
In between taking Brad to various parts of the hospital for x-rays, EEC's and other examinations, we spent most of the Friday (7th April) in the "nursery" at the BRI. During that day we saw a number of older girls who were to undergo surgery. My husband and I saw Mr Dhasmana that day, and we talked to him about the television reports. He said that the report had put the unit back 10 years, and he was clearly unhappy about the media coverage. He said we could take Brad home now if we wanted, but he did not offer us the possibility of a referral to another hospital. We told Mr Dhasmana we had every faith in him and that we would not be taking Brad home.

19. Weekend at Home

Mr Dhasmana told us on the Friday that he was happy with Brad and that we could take him home for the weekend, which we did. We returned with Brad in the early evening of Sunday 9th April 1995.

20. The Evening before the Operation

The next evening, Monday 10th April 1995, Brad was seen by Dr Sally Masey, the anaesthetist. Again, Stuart was with me. Dr Masey explained that Brad would be given a pre-med before undergoing his operation and we would be able to come down to theatre with

Signed 

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