

common carotid artery, where the aorta was just 3mm in calibre, for a length of up to 2cms. Relieving this additional obstruction was very difficult. and prolonged the operation At the end I was not satisfied that the obstruction was totally relieved.

It would seem that I came out of the operation during all of this and spoke briefly to the parents; I apologise if I appeared a little short. Clearly my mind was still on the operation.

4. NO ONE EXPLAINED

Para 12

"Neither Mr Wisheart nor any of the other staff explained what affect, if any, the problems that Stephen's arteries would have."

Comment

The nursing note (MR2793. 0108 and 0109) records that I spoke with the parents immediately after the operation and during the following day. While I have no record of what was discussed, it is inconceivable that we did not discuss the consequences of what was found and what was done at the operation, and the resulting anxieties; that was the purpose of the conversations.

5. DIALYSIS

Para 12 and 13

"The staff just did not seem to be reacting to the seriousness of Stephen's condition. I think it was only when Michael said that he could borrow an army dialysis machine, if they had no equipment for Stephen, that they were spurred into action."

"A female Doctor who was a renal specialist came and told us that they would give him dialysis, but that if Stephen had not improved within 24 hours, they would

withdraw him from treatment. Stephen did not respond to dialysis and was taken off the machine on the 29th August. He died the following day."

Comment

The fact of Stephen's very small urine output, and its consequences, were known to us and were a major consideration in his management during the 24 to 30 hours following the operation, prior to consulting Dr Mary McGraw, the renal specialist (see MR 2793 0032-38). Dr McGraw saw Stephen and spoke with Mr and Mrs Kift on the 29th August. Her handwritten note at (MR 2793 0036) refers to the possible causes of his renal failure and to the uncertainty about recovery. She explained this to the parents, and, "...*they appreciate that dialysis is a temporary procedure to see if there is renal recovery.*"

The peritoneal dialysis began on 29th August and continued through to the 30th when Stephen sadly died. It had **not** been stopped earlier (MR 2793.0036-38 and 0110-0111).

6. SO LITTLE EXPLANATION OFFERED

Para 17

"We received so little explanation and guidance about Stephen's care."

"Mr Wisheart, in particular, seemed to talk at us rather than to us."

Comment

There is considerable evidence in the notes of much time devoted to talking with Mr and Mrs Kift. If their impression is that this was insufficient or inappropriately done, either generally or by myself in particular, I sincerely apologise to them. I deeply regret that at such a tragic time for them there would have been any avoidable addition to their anxieties and difficulties.