

25

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RE: Sophie Hanks


To Whom It May Concern:

Ms Hanks is a 48 year old woman who presented to me on 5/24/03 with complaints including dizziness, light-headedness, impaired balance and near syncope, which worsens with upright posture, arm movements, and movements of her head and neck. Her symptoms began initially following osteopathic manipulation for treatment of TMJ, and were exacerbated following surgical procedures (particularly her craniotomies) and recently with airplane travel. She has undergone cervical fusion in 1997 for cervical disc herniation and quadriparesis; surgery in 1998 for herniated lumbar disc, and in 2000 for fusion of L3-S1; craniotomy in 2000 with decompression of the right eighth cranial nerve and medulla (which was compressed by thickening of the right vertebral artery) with Teflon mesh; and again in 2001 with decompression of the right eighth and tenth cranial nerves, and lateral medulla with Teflon mesh. She has been found to have a syrinx in the cervical spine, and protrusion of one of the screws in the cervical surgical site as well.

She has been diagnosed with postural tachycardia, and has responded partially to treatments with Toprol XL 100mg daily; and a 3 month course of fludrocortisone, a mineral corticosteroid (Florinef), which was discontinued due to swelling in her legs. She has undergone neurologic and neurosurgical evaluations regarding her ongoing symptoms, with some consideration of the possibility of a foreign body reaction causing her ongoing symptoms. To date, none of the evaluating physicians have performed a lumbar puncture. I suggest that if this is done, it be done by an interventional radiologist in view of the prior procedures to her lumbar spine. She would also benefit from further cardiovascular evaluation regarding the postural tachycardia, involving review of the prior tilt table studies. She would also benefit from further neurosurgical evaluation of the prior operative sites including the status of the Teflon meshes, and the protruding screw.

Thank you for your review of this matter.

Sincerely yours,


J,
J, MD