

DR. A. J. BOOKALLIL
M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.
NEUROSURGEON

A. J. BOOKALLIL PTY. LIMITED

P.O. Newcastle.

3rd December, 1982.

AJB:VP

- 6 DEC 1982

Messrs. Bruce O'Sullivan & Co.,
Solicitors,
P.O. Box 632,
NEWCASTLE. 2300.

Dear Sir,

Re: Death of Richard SLATER,
Late of [REDACTED]
COOK'S HILL. 2300.
R.N.H. UR: 356231.

I am replying to your letter of 2nd December, 1982 reference FB:LM.

The above patient was admitted under my care at The Royal Newcastle Hospital on 19th December, 1980. He was aged 69 and had been admitted with a history of having been found in a toilet at Birdwood Park. It appeared that he had been assaulted. He was able to obey commands but was quite confused and disorientated. He also had a fairly marked speech disturbance. His pupils were equal and reacting and he had good eye movements. He had bilateral periorbital haematomata and subconjunctival haemorrhages. A Cerebral CT Scan showed left-sided posterior temporal intracerebral haematoma.

From the neurological point of view he was observed and there was no deterioration in his condition. However twenty-four hours after admission he developed pulmonary oedema and was transferred to the care of Dr. Noel Walker (Cardiologist), with a provisional diagnosis of a myocardial infarction. From a neurological point of view he was able still to obey commands but was confused. He continued to have his speech disturbance.

While still under the care of Dr. N. Walker, three days after admission he suddenly died following a cardiac arrest.

From the neurological point of view the patient sustained a fairly severe head injury but his condition did not cause any undue concern and I would have expected him to have improved although he may have persisting neurological deficit. As I have stated above once he developed myocardial problems he was transferred to the care of Dr. Noel Walker but I do believe that the cause of death was primarily that of a myocardial infarction and not a death directly attributable to his head injury.

As a Neurosurgeon I am not really competent to comment on whether a head injury could precipitate a myocardial infarction and I would advise that a cardiological opinion be sought.

Yours sincerely,


A.J. BOOKALLIL.