

Denise Dunn

From: Heather Predham
Sent: Thursday, August 03, 2006 4:41 PM
To: Susan Bonnell; Patricia Pilgrim; Robert Williams; Pam Elliott
Subject: RE: Seriously flawed story on CBC

Hi,

I was going to e-mail you back and say that the article is wrong when it says that the whole DCIS issue is included in the lawsuit...but I decided to check and make sure before I e-mailed you

Nancy, Dr. Denic and Dr. Laing met with the three women on July 12.....the claim is dated July 7th.....how did Ches know to include this paragraph when only a very limited number of people knew this part of the whole thing?

12. In the course of reviewing laboratory performance, the Defendant discovered that a number of women who were diagnosed with invasive cancer actually had only pre-invasive cancer. These patients were over treated with chemotherapy and excessive surgery, accompanied by long-term morbidity including lymphedema, as a result.

Heather

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Bonnell
Sent: Thursday, August 03, 2006 4:22 PM
To: Executive Team Eastern Health May 2005; Heather Predham
Subject: Seriously flawed story on CBC

This story is appearing on the CBC website today. I'm very concerned by the implication that 10 to 20% of these women DID NOT HAVE breast cancer.

Faulty diagnoses for cancer patients, lawsuit alleges

Last Updated: Thursday, August 3, 2006 | 10:55 AM NT

CBC News

Some Newfoundland women were treated for breast cancer in the past 10 years even though they never actually had the disease, a class-action lawsuit alleges.

False-positive results in tests done by the Eastern Regional Integrated Health Authority led to needless surgeries and chemotherapy treatments for the patients, as well as inflicting

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unnecessary mental distress on them, it charges.

The suit was filed last month by plaintiff Verna Doucette on behalf women who feel they suffered as a result of testing problems in the pathology department.

According to Doucette's statement of claim, which was filed in the Supreme Court of Newfoundland, Eastern Health noticed in 2005 that some patients diagnosed with breast cancer since 1997 were not responding as expected to treatment.

The statement says Eastern Health subsequently sent approximately 1,000 tissue samples collected from cancer patients to Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital for retesting.

Doucette alleges in the claim that the Mount Sinai retesting showed an error rate of at least 10 to 20 per cent.

The statement of claim does not specify how much money the group is seeking in damages.

Myrtle Lewis of Conception Bay South had a double mastectomy, only to find out seven years later that the surgery was unnecessary. Lewis said she is not suing for the money, but to help ensure such incidents do not happen to anyone else in the future.

"There's nothing that'll ever replace what I've lost," said Lewis.

"But if it's going to help somebody else, some other woman out there, I say to them, 'Make sure, make sure you get the second opinion.' "

St. John's lawyer Ches Crosbie, who represents the plaintiffs, said Eastern Health had not responded to the allegations as of Thursday.

However, he added that the health authority's lawyer is currently on vacation.



Susan Bonnell
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