

## Girl's death not due to monitor, lawyer says

*Inquest told machine  
does not malfunction*

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A new theory to explain how a 10-year-old girl died at the Hospital for Sick Children was undermined yesterday by the hospital's lawyer.

After the third day of the inquest into Lisa Shore's mysterious death, Patrick Hawkins, counsel for the hospital, said the kind of machine used to monitor respiration and heartbeat is safe and does not malfunction.

"The hospital looked at the monitor and is satisfied with the functioning of the monitor," Mr. Hawkins said outside the coroner's court. He would not comment any further.

Lisa died Oct. 22, 1998, after being admitted to the hospital the previous evening because of chronic pain in her leg.

Earlier this week, Stephan Bauer, the manager of patient care equipment services for the hospital, testified that the machine, called a corometric monitor, has the potential to malfunction.

Mr. Bauer testified that on the night Lisa died, the machine might have detected a heartbeat even though there was none. As a result no alarm would have gone off to indicate Lisa was in danger. Mr. Bauer is scheduled to return to the inquest later to explain the theory further.

Mr. Bauer's testimony sparked an uproar from the other lawyers, who said they had not been forewarned by Mr. Hawkins about the testimony. Yesterday, a representative for the manufacturer of the machine, G. E. Marquette Medical Systems, arrived at the inquest and asked for standing in the proceedings.

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"We have no information at all from the hospital to indicate our equipment malfunctioned in any way," said Van Krkachovski, lawyer for the manufacturer.

Dr. Jim Cairns, the deputy chief coroner, adjourned the inquest until January to give G.E. Marquette time to review the case. The hospital was also instructed to prepare a written report and conduct an investigation of the monitors.

After the adjournment, Sharon Shore, Lisa's mother, said she was disappointed by the delay and saddened that the hospital has still not apologized to her.

"We think it is reprehensible that the hospital is trying so hard to blame everyone else," she said.

The family reached a settlement for an undisclosed amount with the hospital last month.

Cyndy DeGiusti, chief of public affairs for Sick Kids, said the hospital will co-operate with the investigation to "get to the bottom of what may have happened."

The hospital, which has more than 200 corometric monitors, is still using the machines, and "they are safe and accurate." Ms. DeGiusti said the hospital has "made some changes," but she would not say what they were.

"The whole thing is a joke," said Frank Gromberg, the lawyer for Sharon and Bill Shore, Lisa's parents. "It is a cynical, cheap attempt on the part of the hospital to off-load responsibility."

Mr. Gromberg said no one seems to know the whereabouts of the particular corometric monitor used on Lisa. Unlike the IV and morphine pump that were connected to the little girl, the corometric monitor has not been located, tested and preserved, he said.