

THE NATIONAL LUPRON VICTIMS NETWORK

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December 5, 1997

Brockton Superior Court
Plymouth County 72
Belmont Street Brockton,
MA 02401

RE: Ms. Lynne Millican

Dear Tribunal Members:

Many years ago I founded The National Lupron Victims Network to inform people about the risks involved in taking the drug, Lupron. The network does not accept any money from either victims or external sources. All of our information (approximately 80 printed pages) is available for free on the internet at <http://www.voicenet.com/~nlvn/>. I hope that the information I have found in my years of research will help other people so that they are fully informed of the risks involved in taking Lupron.

Women and men from all over the world have contacted the network. Nearly all of the people I have spoken to were not informed of the risks involved in taking Lupron. The majority of the people who continue to have medical problems after taking Lupron, are finding that they are having an unusually hard time getting adequate medical care.

The individual case that I have the greatest knowledge of is that of my sister, Dr. Rita Abend. Before Rita took Lupron, difficulty obtaining medical care was something neither Rita nor I could comprehend. Once she took Lupron everything changed. While on Lupron Rita experienced horrendous side-effects. Doctors had never informed Rita of any risks. Ultimately, we realized that she probably would never receive the medical care that she so desperately needed.

Since taking Lupron, Rita has been diagnosed with seizures, autonomic nervous system dysfunction and myeloma/plasmacytomas (a rare form of bone marrow cancer). All of these diagnoses were given and then rescinded at one time or another. Results on her blood laboratory reports and numerous pages of medical documents were whited-out, and vials of **blood** lost by a physician before they even left his office. Doctor after doctor has refused to treat her including one who plainly stated that it would not be in his best interest to do so. Rita went all over the country in search of medical care after taking Lupron. Rita, like many others who took Lupron, could not get honest medical care after taking Lupron. And

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without honest medical care and doctors to testify, due process in the courts is an impossibility.

In one instance, Rita had to obtain a court order in order to get her medical records from one doctor, Orin Devinsky. Devinsky had threatened to "destroy" the continuous audiovisual video tapes that he had made of her electroencephalograms (EEGs) during a 9 day hospital stay in a specialized epilepsy unit, approximately two weeks after stopping Lupron. (Rita spent three of these days in intensive care.) Despite the fact that these tapes had over 600 computerized "events" (alerting the viewer to abnormal brain activity), Devinsky wanted to destroy them. During the hospital stay Devinsky learned that Rita's IQ had dropped to 97 on an IQ test and her manual dexterity was in the bottom 8% of the nation. Instead of informing us of this drastic decline after taking Lupron, he informed us that the tests came back "normal." Although Devinsky's admitting diagnosis was "convulsions" (based on an EEG), he claimed that this was all a mistake and in the end nothing was wrong with Rita. Even with the court order Devinsky did not turn over all of the medical records. He claims to have "lost" some tapes.

Instead of offering Rita anti-seizure medication, Devinsky tried to coax Rita into taking a derivative of pentamethylenetetrazole (PTZ), insisting that it was perfectly safe and that no one had ever been hurt by it. Rita refused the PTZ. After researching PTZ I discovered that PTZ is no longer given to humans since it is not safe. It has been found to **cause** seizures and effects the autonomic nervous system. It is used in the laboratory to make animals epileptic for experimentation purposes. When Rita finally found a doctor to monitor her seizure condition caused by Lupron, she was offered not one, but, four anti-seizure medications.

In another instance, Rita was experiencing extreme pain in her hip. An x-ray revealed that she had lost 30-50% of her bone density at the head of her femur. Lupron is known to cause bone loss at the head of the femur. Rita was instructed to use a walker because her hip could fracture from the loss of bone. Rita was referred to a specialist. He refused to treat her. He refused to run a single test, not even a blood test. Rita was left in bed suffering with excruciating pain for one year, unable to get up without the use of a walker.

Today, my sister, a once actively employed, vital, energetic and intelligent woman who graduated from New York University Dental School, is now totally and permanently disabled. It is hard to say which is most difficult for Rita; relinquishing her dental license, relinquishing her drivers license, accepting the fact that comprehensive medical care (no testing, no answers) will always be denied because she took Lupron, or that justice will probably not prevail if one has been injured by Lupron.

Doctors who prescribe Lupron are denying people the accurate information they need in order to make an informed decision. Once people become ill on Lupron, these physicians are denying the temporal relationship between Lupron and the onset of symptoms. They even deny information in respected peer-reviewed medical journals. For example, two studies reported memory loss with Lupron occurring in 72% and 75% of the studied populations. Both studies were published in the Journal of Assisted Reproduction and Genetics, and Fertility & Sterility respectively. The percentages reported are quite high.

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In fact, if an individual does not experience memory loss with Lupron that individual is in the minority. Yet, doctors who prescribe Lupron are continuing to deny that Lupron causes memory loss. Doctors who prescribe Lupron are also denying that Lupron can cause other side-effects that have already been acknowledged in the medical literature and printed in the package insert. They deny the correlation of side-effects while on Lupron. They deny the correlation when one stops taking Lupron and the side-effects persist.

I certainly do not want to leave you with the impression that I believe all physicians are bad. There are many good, caring physicians out there treating people with all kinds of medical problems. But when Lupron victims turn to physicians for help and answers they get a deaf ear and the run-around. Lupron victims are not victims of Lupron alone, but are also victims of a medical system that has failed them. And without medical care and doctors to testify they are unable to obtain justice in the courts.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Abend". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Linda Abend, DDS
Founder

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