

**" We Made the New York Times".**

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# The New York Times

**“An Infection, Unnoticed, Turns Unstoppable”**



## The Story of Rory

- Healthy 12 year old (RS) scrapes arm diving for a ball during gym class. ( day “0”)
- Develops fever, weakness, **leg pain**, mottling and vomiting. Seen by private pediatrician who attributes leg pain to gym class although parents and he state that he did not fall on his legs. Parents worried about leg pain. ( Day 1) (HR=140, RR=36, Temp=102.)
- Pediatrician sends RS to hospital ED. No documentation of any conversation between pediatrician and ED. ( Day 1)

## Rory Staunton: Clinical Course

- ED had check list for early detection and treatment of sepsis, but it used adult parameters. (VS: HR=140, RR=36, BP=103/50)
- Treated for dehydration and vomiting. Vital signs were abnormal before treatment, and after treatment, but second set not recorded in chart until after patient discharged. (Day 1)( T=102, HR=131, RR=22)
- Labs ordered but not reviewed before discharge. When they did come back, no documentation that the ordering doctor saw them. Day (1)
- No documentation that the lab notified the doctor of the abnormal lab values. Neither the parents nor pediatrician notified about the lab results.

**Clinical Course: Continued**



# Rory Staunton's CBC



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03/29/2012 20:00 CBC	
White Blood Cells	→ 14.7 H [3.7-11.4 K/uL] Final
Nucleated RBCs	0 [0 /100WBC] Final
Red Blood Cells	4.94 [4.20-5.60 M/uL] Final
Hemoglobin	14.3 [12.5-16.1 g/dL] Final
Hematocrit	42.4 [36.0-47.0 %] Final
MCV	85.7 [78-95 FL] Final
MCH	28.9 [26-32 pg] Final
MCHC	33.7 [32-36 g/dL] Final
RDW	13.1 [11.5-14.5 %] Final
Platelet Count	→ 117 L [150-400 K/uL] Final
MPV	9.03 [6.0-11.0 FL] Final

03/29/2012 20:00 Differential Count	
Segs	39 [33-63 %] Final
Bands	→ 53 H [5-15 %] Final
Lymphocytes	3 L [28-48 %] Final
Monocytes	5 [3-12 %] Final
Absolute Neutrophils	13.5 H [1.5-8.2 K/uL] Final
Absolute Segs	5.7 [1.3-6.6 K/uL] Final
Absolute Bands	7.8 H [0.2-1.7 K/uL] Final
Absolute Lymphs	0.4 L [0.8-4.2 K/uL] Final
Absolute Monocytes	0.7 [0.1-1.1 K/uL] Final

- Rory became more ill on following day.
- Parents contacted pediatrician.
- Pediatrician advised parents to return to ER.
- Doctors immediately diagnosed him as critically ill with sepsis and he was admitted to the intensive care unit. ( Day (2)

**Clinical Course: Continued**



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Rory Staunton dies of sepsis.  
( Day 3)



- .....every person who has read this and develops a fever is going to think they're dying and the EDs are going to be more overwhelmed.....”NY Times Reader”
- .....why was a person with those alarming blood values not contacted by someone ..... “NY Times Reader”
- ...if something good comes from Rory’s death it will be that we realize we have a broken system”..... Maureen Dowd, NY Times columnist article.
- It was this lack of care and communication which resulted in Rory’s death....”The Staunton Family”

## PUBLIC REACTION TO THE CASE