

Evidence 12

**Cook Report Journalist Notes – Lord Winston Rushing Through HSG on TV
Programmes Behalf**

COUPLE

PHILIPPA LANGTON & MARTIN JACQUES (pronounced jakes)

Martin is editor of Marxism Today and also writes for the Times.
Philippa works at the working mens college, Camden Town.

This woman had seven attempts at IVF with Dr Jack Glatt, all of which were unsuccessful in producing a take home baby.

She is 39 years old and her partner since 1975 is aged 45 years.

She had a termination of pregnancy in the 8th week back in 1976.
Around this time she had X-rays of her womb taken at the Whittington Hospital.
It is a side effect of termination that the uterus may suffer some form of deformity.
Glatt did not ask the ~~Whittington~~^{utrus} for a history of their clinical management.

At present she is being rushed through for an x-ray, on our behalf, to confirm that her uterus is indeed deformed. If so, Glatt's treatment amounts to professional negligence. It is now confirmed she has a severely deformed uterus.

He should have asked all sources for her previous medical history but in the absence of this and knowing she had already had a termination he should have conducted a womb x-ray himself to help determine the possible cause of her infertility.

She had seven attempts at IVF from 1987 until June 1990.
On the 2nd, 3rd and 7th attempt the embryo implanted but miscarried.
2/ At 8 weeks scan shows no heartbeat and foetus has stopped developing.
3/ July 88 Very short pregnancy - miscarriage, scan shows tiny sac D&C done.
7/ June 90 scan at 9 weeks shows sac but no foetus. D&C done the same day at the Whittington with a Miss Morgan.

On three separate occasions including the last, four eggs were put back.

IVF cost 800 pounds each time. Total 5,600 pounds with drugs prescribed by GP.

Instead of blood tests, which are more reliable, urine samples were taken to determine time of ovulation and these were sent by post to Serono Labs which takes two days by post.

Egg collection was by vaginal ultrascan with vallium / pathadin anaesthetic. No anaesthetist was present.

She was on Buseralin, Perganol and Pregnisaron.

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Blood tests that were taken were sent to the London Independent.
She was referred by Miss Morgan at the Whittington to Dr Armstrong at St Mary's but the couple decided to seek the advice of Winston who has taken on the management.

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X-rays confirm she has a T shaped uterus which is very badly deformed which would explain why her three pregnancies all miscarried within the first few weeks. She asked why this was happening and was not given an answer. As far as she can remember, no attempt was made to examine her internally prior to IVF treatment.

She, as an intelligent woman read around all the literature and contacted the interim licensing authority for advice and guidance as to the best clinic. At present, individual 'take home baby' rates for individual clinics are not required to be published. She was advised by her consultant Trevor Dart at the Royal Northern Hospital that the Hammersmith had a very long waiting list and the cheapest alternative with a good record was Jack Glatt's clinic - she took medical advice and went there for seven attempts at IVF into a severely abnormal uterus. She failed to give birth.

One of a number of people who treated her was Dr Sammy Morcos who left and is now at the Queen Mary's hospital, Sidcup in Kent. Another was female Dr Gill.

She went through a period of grieving after the three miscarriages.

After the seventh attempt, she felt suicidal.

Price was a factor in their decision and Glatt was the cheapest.

On the first occasion she was in considerable pain because the procedure took so long. On the seventh, she was in so much distress that she was physically sick and the procedure had to be abandoned.

On the 5th attempt at the Spanish House address her partner, Martin Jacques was sent to Boots the chemist to pick up a prescription for pethidine while Philippa was on the table waiting for egg collection. The chemist refused and he went back to the clinic. They phoned Boots and sent him down again to pick up the anaesthetic for his partner's operation.

So in the interview we want to bring out.....

1/ How did you come to be treated at Dr Jack Glatt's clinic (the infertility advisory centre)

She will say, I wanted to be treated at the Hammersmith but my consultant at the time said it had a long waiting list and he knew some people at the IAC.

2/ What happened there

She will say, seven attempts at IVF - on several occasions the process was so painful they had to stop. At one point Martin was sent down to Boots to pick up her anaesthetic.

I asked why I had miscarried three times and was told, It's just one of those things.