

1 Q That was all because of the fluid buildup
2 and to relieve the pressure and the discomfort; is
3 that correct?

4 A That is correct.

5 Q Now, Doctor, in addition to the drainage of
6 the fluid, at some time did you decide to try another
7 procedure on Mr. Vandergucht to relieve the discomfort
8 he was experiencing?

9 A In September of 1981, he was referred to
10 Johns Hopkins Hospital to Dr. Hoover to place a LeVeen
11 shunt.

12 Q I am sorry. Could you give me that name
13 again?

14 A He placed a LeVeen shunt which is a
15 procedure that involves connecting the fluid in the
16 abdominal cavity via a plastic catheter that is then
17 run under the skin of the chest and into a large vein
18 up under the collarbone or in the neck so this fluid
19 could drain from the abdominal cavity back into the
20 general circulation and hopefully out through the
21 urinary tract and urinate it away.