In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 05-1034V

Filed: March 19, 2013

Not to be Published

TONYA RAYE HETRICK, parent of BRANDON KANE HETRICK, a minor,	*	
Petitioner,	*	Autism; Petitioner's Motion for a Decision; Dismissing the Petition for Insufficient Proof of Causation; Vaccine Act Entitlement; Denial Without Hearing
v.	*	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,	*	
Respondent.	*	

DECISION [1]

On September 26, 2005, petitioner filed a Petition For Vaccine Compensation in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program ("the Program"),[2] alleging that various vaccinations injured Brandon. The information in the record, however, does not show entitlement to an award under the Program.

[1] Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to delete medical or other information, that satisfies the criteria in § 300aa-12(d)(4)(B). Further, consistent with the rule requirement, a motion for redaction must include a proposed redacted decision. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within the requirements of that provision, I will delete such material from public access.

[2] The Program comprises Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755, codified as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 *et seq.* (hereinafter "Vaccine Act" or "the Act"). Hereafter, individual section references will be to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa of the Act.

On March 19, 2013, petitioner moved for a decision on the merits of the petition, acknowledging that insufficient evidence exists to demonstrate entitlement to compensation.

To receive compensation under the Program, petitioner must prove either 1) that Brandon suffered a "Table Injury" – i.e., an injury falling within the Vaccine Injury Table – corresponding to one of Brandon's vaccinations, or 2) that Brandon suffered an injury that was actually caused by a vaccine. See §§ 13(a)(1)(A) and 11(c)(1). An examination of the record did not uncover any evidence that Brandon suffered a "Table Injury." Further, the record does not contain a medical expert's opinion or any other persuasive evidence indicating that Brandon's alleged injury was vaccine-caused.

Under the Act, petitioner may not be given a Program award based solely on the petitioner's claims alone. Rather, the petition must be supported by either medical records or by the opinion of a competent physician. § 13(a)(1). In this case, because there are insufficient medical records supporting petitioner's claim, a medical opinion must be offered in support. Petitioner, however, has offered no such opinion.

Accordingly, it is clear from the record in this case that petitioner has failed to demonstrate either that Brandon suffered a "Table Injury" or that Brandon's injuries were "actually caused" by a vaccination. **Thus, this case is dismissed for insufficient proof. The Clerk shall enter judgment accordingly.**

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Patricia E. Campbell-Smith
Patricia E. Campbell-Smith
Chief Special Master