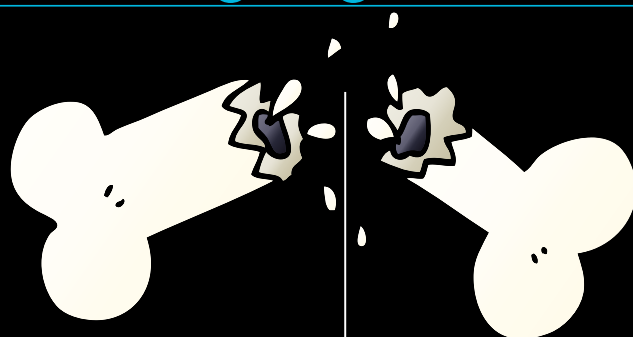


Expert and statistical evidence in medical negligence



What should I look for in a medical expert witness?



EXPERIENCE

The witness should have performed the surgery or procedure in issue.

In the witness box, a witness could be asked if they have performed the relevant procedure and if the answer is that they haven't, then their evidence may not add much value.



SPECIALISED KNOWLEDGE

The expert witness should specialise in the minutiae of the relevant issue.

For example, avoid expert witnesses who are orthopaedic surgeons specialising in upper limb surgery when your case relates to lower limbs.



TRAINING

Surgeons require extensive training and, at certain stages of their career, may be accredited or unaccredited.

Choosing expert witnesses who have undertaken relevant training to completion is vital.



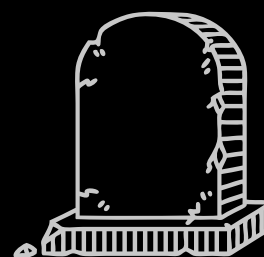
EXPERT REPORTS

Statistics are useful to underly certain assumptions in an expert report.

Statistics can go awry when care is not taken to understand exactly what they are saying. Statistics can tell you the likelihood of something happening, not whether it did.



When and how should I use statistics?



LIFE EXPECTANCY

Statistics may be used to investigate life expectancy.

Statistics in this area should be used with caution as sometimes they do not account for the level of healthcare which an individual receives.