



MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Executive Office



December 17, 2007

Ronesh Sinha, M.D.
Palo Alto Medical Foundation
805 Veterans Boulevard, Suite 201
Redwood City, CA 94063

RE: Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A-70506
Case No. 06-2002-132377

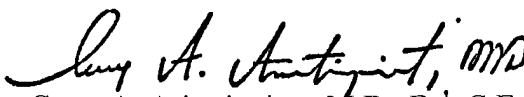
Public Letter of Reprimand

On November 12, 2004, an accusation was filed against you regarding your care and treatment of five patients who were seen in 2001 and 2002, while you were employed by Edward L. Tobinick, M.D., Inc. at the Institute for Neurological Research. You gave four of the five patients one injection each of etanercept (a tumor necrosis factor- α inhibitor that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for several uses, including in cases of rheumatoid arthritis and other autoimmune diseases) to relieve pain resulting from disk injury. The use of etanercept required that a physician and surgeon take particular care with patients who may have infections or who are at high risk of developing infections. Although no medical harm came to any of these four patients as a result of your care and treatment, you did not exercise that extra degree of care by:

- (1) Failing to measure the body temperature or to perform a skin test for tuberculosis in any of the four patients before injecting them with etanercept, although none of the five patients had active tuberculosis.
- (2) Failing to ensure that diabetes mellitus of patients B.S. and L.K. was under control by measuring hemoglobin A_{1c}.

In addition, pursuant to your employer's policy at that time, some of the patients you saw had signed confidentiality agreements, and you did not fully explain to them that they could disclose the identity of the medication to their treating physicians.

Pursuant to the authority of the California Business and Professions Code section 2233, you are hereby issued this Public Letter of Reprimand by the Medical Board of California with the expectation that you have addressed the causes for this conduct, and that you have taken steps to ensure that this conduct will not be repeated.


Cesar A. Aristeiguieta, M.D., F.A.C.E.P.
President