

Murder by Numbers

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If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything (?) The truth, the <u>whole</u> truth, and nothing but the truth

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BARRY ATSMA SALLIE **HARMSEN** ARIANE SCHLUTER

FEDJA VAN HUÊT

ANNET **MALHERBE**

EEN FILM VAN PAULA VAN DER OEST

HUCIA DE B.

SCHULDIG TOT JE ONSCHULD IS BEWEZEN

3 APRIL IN DE BIOSCOOP

DE STRAFZAAK TEGEN LUCIA DE B.











Reconstructie van een gerechtelijke dwaling

Ton Derksen

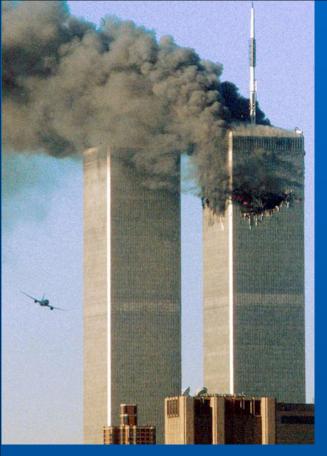


(2006)

Whistleblowers Metta de Noo, Ton Derksen







Time-line



- 2001 Suspicious death at Juliana Children's hospital, the Hague; investigation of 30+ other suspicious deaths
- 2003 Life sentence for 4 murders and 3 attempts Evidence: statistical:1 in 342 million chance of coincidence
- 2004 Life sentence + TBS for 7 murders and 3 attempts
 All evidence: medical
- 2006 Life sentence definitive
- 2010 Conviction revoked. All deaths natural



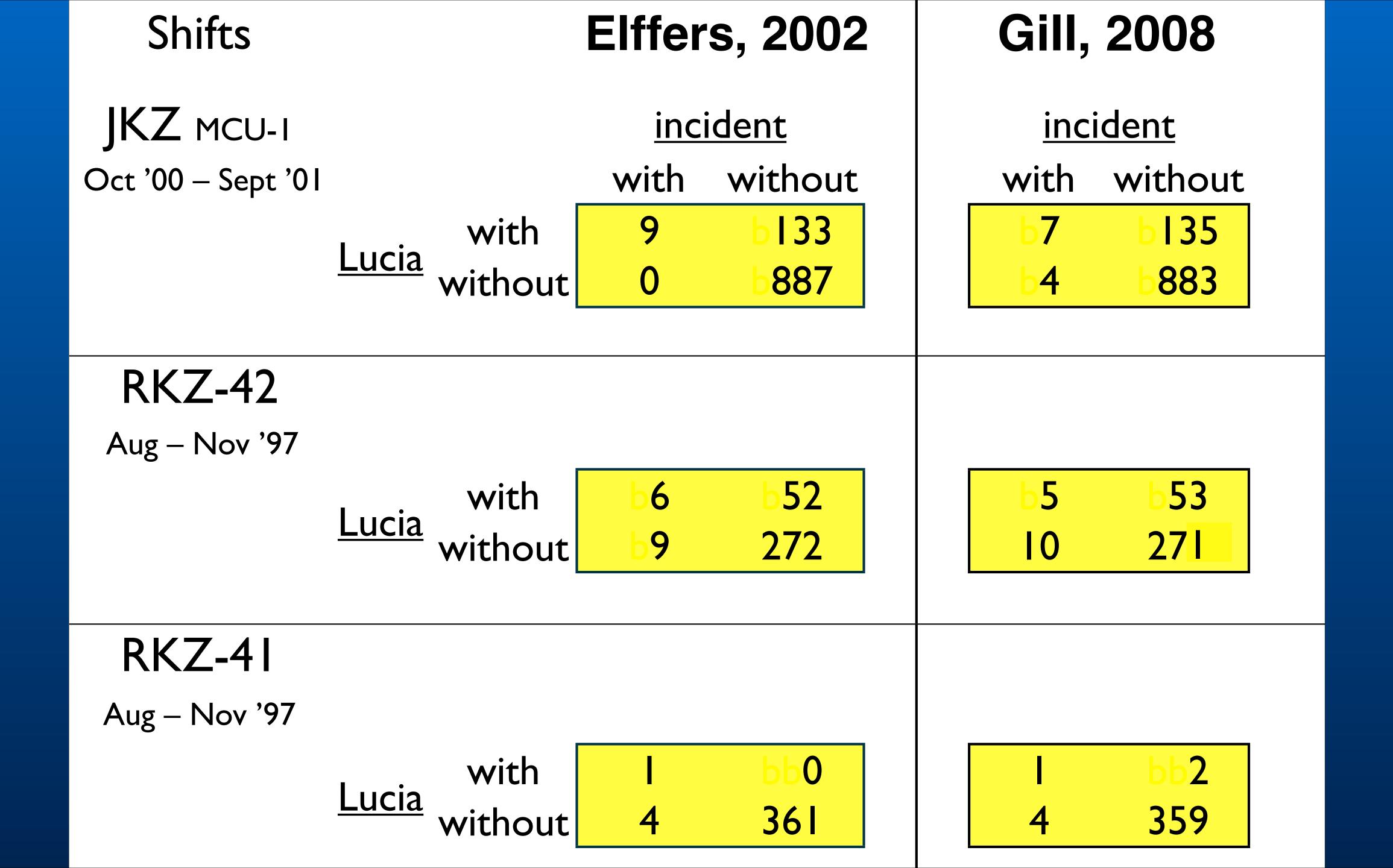


What really happened?



First, a step back

Shifts	Court data		Corrected data
JKZ MCU-I Oct '00 – Sept '01	with Lucia without	incident with without 9 b133 0 b887	incident with without b7 b135 b4 b883
RKZ-42 Aug – Nov '97	Lucia with without	652272	b5 b53 10 271
RKZ-41 Aug – Nov '97	Lucia with without	I bb0 4 361	I bb2 4 359



Some p-values

- Elffers (2002) (original data) 1 in 342 million
- Gill (2008) (corrected data, corrected method) between 1 in 1000 and 1 in 25

 ... and beware of <u>prosecutor's fallacy</u>:
 Prob(Evidence | Innocent) isn't same thing as Prob(Innocent | Evidence)

Any top baseball player is probably a tall guy. Any tall guy is probably not a top baseball player

The aftermath

- Justice took the blame
- Many lessons have been learnt by NL police, judiciary, forensic scientists
- In the medical world:



What really happened?

- Some more statistics ...
- Some more evidence ...



Some more statistics

- Before 2012, in NL, ca. 2000 deaths per year in hospitals caused by avoidable (and known) medical errors
- In the vast majority of cases, no admission of errors by doctors / hospital
- Thanks to measures taken by minister of health, from 2012, number is halved!

Some more evidence

- Inconsistencies in medical evidence
- Inconsistencies in the time-line prior to 2001
- The deaths were natural (i.e.: only to be expected) ... but hastened by faulty diagnosis, faulty treatment ... known to those responsible? ... never brought to attention of courts!

Source: report toxicologist Meulenbelt (retrial, Arnhem): in depth analysis of three crucial cases

Conclusion

- When an airliner crashes, we investigate what happened, and take steps to prevent it ever happening again
- The Lucia case was a disaster
- It can happen again, tomorrow

