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## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

DEC 29 2009

LINDA RIZZO and RONALD RIZZO, Plaintiffs, v.

CIVIL ACTION FILE

09-CV 3645

C. R. BARD, INC.,

Defendant.

## COMPLAINT

COME NOW Linda Rizzo and Ronald Rizzo as Plaintiffs herein and hereby file this Complaint, showing the Court as follows:

### PARTIES, JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1.

Plaintiffs are residents of the State of Wisconsin.

2.

Defendant C. R. Bard, Inc. ("Defendant") is a New Jersey corporation with its principal place of business in New Jersey. All acts and omissions of Defendant as described herein were done by its agents, servants, employees and/or owners, acting in the course and scope of their respective agencies, services, employments and/or ownership.

3.

Plaintiffs are seeking damages in excess of \$75,000.00.

Subject matter jurisdiction is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332.

4.

Bard Urological, the division of Defendant C. R. Bard, Inc. that designed, manufactured, marketed, packaged, labeled and sold the product at issue in this lawsuit, is located in the Northern District of Georgia in Covington, Georgia.

5.

Defendant has significant contacts with the Northern District of Georgia such that it is subject to personal jurisdiction within said district.

6.

A substantial part of the events and omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs' causes of action occurred in the Northern District of Georgia.

7.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a), venue is proper in the Northern District of Georgia.

### FACTUAL BACKGROUND

8.

At all times relevant herein, Defendant was engaged in the business of designing, manufacturing, marketing, packaging, labeling, and selling medical devices, including its Avaulta Plus Anterior and Posterior BioSynthetic Support Systems (the

"Products"), specifically placing said Products into the stream of commerce.

9.

Plaintiff Linda Rizzo was implanted with the Products during surgery performed by Dr. Henry Kaminski at Community Memorial Hospital in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.

10.

The Products were implanted in Plaintiff Linda Rizzo to treat her pelvic organ prolapse, the use for which Defendant marketed the Products.

11.

As a result of having the Products implanted in her,

Plaintiff Linda Rizzo has experienced significant mental and

physical pain and suffering, and has sustained permanent injury,

and permanent and substantial physical deformity, and has

endured impaired physical relations with her husband, Plaintiff

Ronald Rizzo.

#### CAUSES OF ACTION

#### COUNT I: NEGLIGENCE

12.

Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1-11 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

13.

Defendant had a duty to individuals, including Plaintiff

Linda Rizzo, to use reasonable care in designing, manufacturing, marketing, labeling, packaging and selling the Products.

14.

Defendant was negligent in failing to use reasonable care in designing, manufacturing, marketing, labeling, packaging and selling the Products.

15.

As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's negligence, the Plaintiff Linda Rizzo was caused and/or in the future will be caused to suffer severe personal injuries, pain and suffering, severe emotional distress, financial or economic loss, including but not limited to obligations for medical services and expenses, present and future lost wages, and other damages.

### COUNT II: STRICT LIABILITY - DESIGN DEFECT

16.

Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1-11 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

17.

The Products implanted in Plaintiff Linda Rizzo were not reasonably safe for their intended uses and were defective as a matter of law with respect to their design.

18.

As a direct and proximate result of the Products'

aforementioned defects, Plaintiff Linda Rizzo was caused and/or in the future will be caused to suffer severe personal injuries, pain and suffering, severe emotional distress, financial or economic loss, including but not limited to obligations for medical services and expenses, present and future lost wages, and other damages.

19.

Defendant is strictly liable to Plaintiff Linda Rizzo for designing, manufacturing, marketing, labeling, packaging and selling a defective product.

#### COUNT III: STRICT LIABILITY - MANUFACTURING DEFECT

20.

Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1-11 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

21.

The Products implanted in Plaintiff Linda Rizzo were not reasonably safe for their intended uses and were defective as a matter of law with respect to their manufacture.

22.

As a direct and proximate result of the Products' aforementioned defects, Plaintiff Linda Rizzo was caused and/or in the future will be caused to suffer severe personal injuries, pain and suffering, severe emotional distress, financial or economic loss, including but not limited to obligations for

medical services and expenses, present and future lost wages, and other damages.

23.

Defendant is strictly liable to Plaintiff Linda Rizzo for designing, manufacturing, marketing, labeling, packaging and selling a defective product.

## COUNT IV: STRICT LIABILITY - FAILURE TO WARN

24.

Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1-11 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

25.

The Products implanted in Plaintiff Linda Rizzo were not reasonably safe for their intended uses and were defective as a matter of law due to their lack of appropriate and necessary warnings.

26.

As a direct and proximate result of the Products' aforementioned defects, Plaintiff Linda Rizzo was caused and/or in the future will be caused to suffer severe personal injuries, pain and suffering, severe emotional distress, financial or economic loss, including but not limited to obligations for medical services and expenses, present and future lost wages, and other damages.

27.

Defendant is strictly liable to Plaintiff Linda Rizzo for designing, manufacturing, marketing, labeling, packaging and selling a defective product.

### COUNT V: BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY

28.

Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1-11 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

29.

Defendant made assurances to the general public, hospitals and health care professionals that the Products were safe and reasonably fit for their intended purposes.

30.

Plaintiff Linda Rizzo and/or her health care provider chose the Products based upon Defendant's warranties and representations regarding the safety and fitness of the Products.

31.

Plaintiff Linda Rizzo individually, and/or by and through her physician, reasonably relied upon Defendant's express warranties and guarantees that the Products were safe, merchantable, and reasonably fit for their intended purposes.

32.

Defendant breached these express warranties because the

Products implanted in Plaintiff Linda Rizzo were unreasonably dangerous and defective and not as Defendant had represented.

33.

Defendant's breach of its express warranties resulted in the implantation of unreasonably dangerous and defective products in Plaintiff Linda Rizzo's body, placing said Plaintiff's health and safety in jeopardy.

34.

As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breach of the aforementioned express warranties, Plaintiff Linda Rizzo was caused and/or in the future will be caused to suffer severe personal injuries, pain and suffering, severe emotional distress, financial or economic loss, including but not limited to obligations for medical services and expenses, present and future lost wages, and other damages.

### COUNT VI: BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY

35.

Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1-11 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

36.

Defendant impliedly warranted that the Products were merchantable and were fit for the ordinary purposes for which they were intended.

37.

When the Products were implanted in Plaintiff Linda Rizzo to treat her pelvic organ prolapse, the Products were being used for the ordinary purposes for which they were intended.

38.

Plaintiff Linda Rizzo, individually and/or by and through her physician, relied upon Defendant's implied warranty of merchantability in consenting to have the Products implanted in her.

39.

Defendant breached these implied warranties of merchantability because the Products implanted in Plaintiff Linda Rizzo were neither merchantable nor suited for their intended uses as warranted.

40.

Defendant's breach of its implied warranties resulted in the implantation of unreasonably dangerous and defective products in Plaintiff Linda Rizzo's body, placing said Plaintiff's health and safety in jeopardy.

41.

As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breach of the aforementioned implied warranties, Plaintiff Linda Rizzo was caused and/or in the future will be caused to suffer severe personal injuries, pain and suffering, severe emotional distress, financial or economic loss, including but not limited to obligations for medical services and expenses, present and future lost wages, and other damages.

### COUNT VII: LOSS OF CONSORTIUM

42.

Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1-11 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

43.

As a direct and proximate result of the above-described injuries sustained by Plaintiff Linda Rizzo, her husband, Plaintiff Ronald Rizzo has suffered a loss of his wife's consortium, companionship, society, affection, services and support.

### COUNT VIII: PUNITIVE DAMAGES

44.

Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1-43 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

45.

Defendant knew or should have known that the Products were defective and presented unreasonable risks of harm to Plaintiff Linda Rizzo.

46.

Defendant's conduct as described in this Complaint, for which Plaintiffs are entitled to recover compensatory damages,

manifested a conscious indifference to, and/or flagrant disregard of, the safety of those persons who might foreseeably have been harmed by the Products, including Plaintiff Linda Rizzo, justifying the imposition of punitive damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand trial by jury, judgment against Defendant for compensatory and punitive damages in an amount exceeding \$75,000, as well as costs, attorney fees, interest, or any other relief, monetary or equitable, to which they are entitled.

BLASINGAME, BURCH, GARRARD &

ASHLEY, P.C.

Attorners for Plaintiffs

Gary B. Wasingame

Øeorgia Bar No. 062900

Henry G. Garrard, III

Georgia Bar No. 286300

Andrew J. Hill, III

Georgia Bar No. 353300

Josh B. Wages

Georgia Bar No. 730098

Adam B. Land

Georgia Bar No. 075641

440 College Avenue P.O. Box 832 Athens, Georgia 30603 706-354-4000

## JURY TRIAL DEMAND

Pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,

Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury of all issues triable

of right by jury at the time of the trial of the within action.

# United States District Court

for the

NORTHERN District of GEORGIA

| LINDA RIZZO and RONALD RIZZO | )                  |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Plaintiff                    | )                  |
| v.                           | ) Civil Action No. |
| C. R. BARD, INC.             | 1 09-CV 3645       |
| Defendant                    |                    |

#### SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address)

C. R. BARD, INC. c/o CORPORATION PROCESS COMPANY (REGISTERED AGENT) 328 ALEXANDER STREET, STE. 10 MARIETTA, GA 30060

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

HENRY G. GARRARD, III BLASINGAME, BURCH, GARRARD & ASHLEY, P.C. 440 COLLEGE AVE. P.O. BOX 832 ATHENS, GA 30603

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

JAMES N. HATTEN CLERK OF COURT

Date: 2 9 DEC 2009

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Local Form 440 (12/09) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Civil Action No.

## PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section must be filed with the court unless exempted by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (1).)

| ☐ I personally served | the summons on the individual a    | it (place)   |             |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| rpersonany serveu     |                                    | on (date)  | ; or        |
| ☐ I left the summons  | at the individual's residence or u | sual place of abode with (name)                              | <del></del> |
| , <del>_</del>        |                                    | of suitable age and discretion who residual                  | des there,  |
| on (date)             |                                    | he individual's last known address; or                       |             |
| ☐ I served the summo  | ons on (name of individual)        |  | , who       |
|                       | accept service of process on beha  | lf of (name of organization)                                 |             |
|                       |                                    | on (date)  | ; or        |
|                       | nons unexecuted because            |  | _<br>; o    |
| — Tretained the saint |                                    |  |             |
| ☐ Other (specify):    |                                    |  |             |
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|                       |                                    |  |             |
|                       |                                    |  |             |
| My fees are \$        | for travel and \$                  | for services, for a total of \$                              |             |
| My fees are \$        |                                    |  |             |
|                       |                                    | for services, for a total of \$                              |             |
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|                       | for travel and \$                  | for services, for a total of \$ is true.  Server's signature |             |
|                       | for travel and \$                  | for services, for a total of \$ is true.  Server's signature |             |

Case 2:10-cv-01224 Document 1-2 Filed 12/29/09 Page 1 of 3 Page D #: 153 645

JS44 (Rev. 1/08 NDGA)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket record. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ATTACHED)

| I. (a) PLAINTIFF(S)   |                           | DEFENDANT(S)   |  |
|---|---------------------------|--|--|
| LINDA RIZZO and RONALD RIZZO  |                           | C. R. BARD, INC.   |  |
| (b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF WAUKESHA (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)   |                           | COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED  DEFENDANT  (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED |  |
| (c) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUI  | MBER, AND                 | ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)   |  |
| Gary B. Blasingame, Henry G. Garrard, III, Andrew J. Josh B. Wages, Adam B. Land BLASINGAME, BURCH, GARRARD & ASHLEY, P 440 College Ave./P.O. Box 832 Athens, GA 30603 706-354-4000 |                           | Richard North Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough 201 17th St. NW, Ste. 1700 Atlanta, Georgia 30363 404-322-6155  |  |
| II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)  |                           | TIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES E AN "X" IN ONE BOX FOR PLAINTIFF AND ONE BOX FOR DEFENDANT) (FOR DIVERSITY CASES ONLY)   |  |
| 1 U.S. GOVERNMENT 3 FEDERAL QUESTION  | PLF DEF                   | PLF DEF  CITIZEN OF THIS STATE   |  |
| PLAINTIFF (U.S. GOVERNMENT NOT A PARTY)  2 U.S. GOVERNMENT  |                           | PLACE OF BUSINESS IN THIS STATE  CITIZEN OF ANOTHER STATE   5 INCORPORATED AND PRINCIPAL   |  |
| DEFENDANT (INDICATE CITIZENSHIP OF PARTIES IN ITEM III)   |                           | PLACE OF BUSINESS IN ANOTHER STATE  CITIZEN OR SUBJECT OF A  |  |
|   | <u> </u>                  | FOREIGN COUNTRY 6 6 FOREIGN NATION   |  |
|   | REINSTATED OR<br>REOPENED | TRANSFERRED FROM 6 MULTIDISTRICT 7 FROM MAGISTRATE JUDGE (Specify District) LITIGATION JUDGMENT  |  |
| V. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE I   | JNDER WHICH Y             | OU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE - DO NOT CITE<br>Y)   |  |
| 28 U.S.C. 1332 Personal injuries due to defective product.  | LESS DIVERSITY            | x)   |  |
| (IF COMPLEX, CHECK REASON BELOW)  |                           |  |  |
| 1. Unusually large number of parties.   | ☐ 6. Pr                   | roblems locating or preserving evidence  |  |
| 2. Unusually large number of claims or defenses.  | ☐ 7. Pe                   | ending parallel investigations or actions by government.   |  |
| 3. Factual issues are exceptionally complex   | ☐ 8. M                    | fultiple use of experts.   |  |
| 4. Greater than normal volume of evidence.  | ☐ 9. N                    | leed for discovery outside United States boundaries.   |  |
| 5. Extended discovery period is needed.   | ☐ 10. F                   | Existence of highly technical issues and proof.  |  |
| ( contel con  | NTINUED                   | ON REVERSE   |  |
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY  RECEIPT # AMOUNT S   | APPLYING IF               |  |  |

365

28:1332 Pl

# VI. NATURE OF SUIT (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

| CONTRACT - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK'  150 RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENT & ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENT  152 RECOVERY OF DEFAULTED STUDENT LOANS (Excl. Veterans)  153 RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENT OF VETERAN'S BENEFITS  | CIVIL RIGHTS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK  441 VOTING  442 EMPLOYMENT  443 HOUSING/ACCOMMODATIONS  444 WELFARE  440 OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS  445 AMERICANS with DISABILITIES - Employment | SOCIAL SECURITY - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY  |  |  |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| CONTRACT - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK    110 INSURANCE     120 MARINE     130 MILLER ACT     140 NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENT     151 MEDICARE ACT     160 STOCKHOLDERS' SUITS     190 OTHER CONTRACT     195 CONTRACT PRODUCT LIABILITY     196 FRANCHISE      210 LAND CONDEMNATION     220 FORECLOSURE     230 RENT LEASE & EJECTMENT     240 TORTS TO LAND     245 TORT PRODUCT LIABILITY     296 ALL OTHER REAL PROPERTY    TORTS - PERSONAL INJURY - "4" MONTHS     315 AIRPLANE     316 AIRPLANE     316 AIRPLANE     320 ASSAULT, LIBEL & SLANDER     330 FEDERAL EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY     340 MARINE     345 MARINE PRODUCT LIABILITY     360 OTHER PERSONAL INJURY - MEDICAL     MALPRACTICE     365 PERSONAL INJURY - MEDICAL     MALPRACTICE     365 PERSONAL INJURY - PRODUCT LIABILITY     362 PERSONAL INJURY - MEDICAL     MALPRACTICE     365 PERSONAL INJURY - PRODUCT LIABILITY     368 ASBESTOS PERSONAL INJURY PRODUCT LIABILITY     369 OTHER PERSONAL INJURY PRODUCT LIABILITY     368 ASBESTOS PERSONAL INJURY PRODUCT LIABILITY     369 OTHER FRAUD     371 TRUTH IN LENDING     380 OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY - "4" MONTHS     DISCOVERY TRACK     370 OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY DAMAGE     385 PROPERTY DAMAGE PRODUCT LIABILITY    BANKRUPTCY - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY     TRACK     422 APPEAL 28 USC 158     423 WITHDRAWAL 28 USC 157 | 446 AMERICANS with DISABILITIES - Other  | FEDERAL TAX SUITS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK  \$70 TAXES (U.S. Plaintiff of Defendant)  871 IRS - THIRD PARTY 26 USC 7609  OTHER STATUTES - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK  400 STATE REAPPORTIONMENT  430 BANKS AND BANKING 450 COMMERCENEC RATES/ETC.  440 DEPORTATION  470 RACKETEER INFLUENCED AND CORRUPT ORGANIZATIONS  480 CONSUMER CREDIT 490 CABLE/SATELLITE TV  810 SELECTIVE SERVICE 875 CUSTOMER CHALLENGE 12 USC 3410  891 AGRICULTURAL ACTS 892 ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT 893 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS  894 ENERGY ALLOCATION ACT 990 APPEAL OF FEE DETERMINATION UNDER EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE  950 CONSTITUTIONALITY OF STATE STATUTES 890 OTHER STATUTES - "8" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK  410 ANTITRUST 850 SECURITIES / COMMODITIES / EXCHANGE  OTHER STATUTES - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK ARBITRATION (Confirm / Vacate / Order / Modify)  (Note: Mark underlying Nature of Suit as well)  * PLEASE NOTE DISCOVERY TRACK FOR EACH CASE TYPE. SEE LOCAL RULE 26.3 |  |  |  |
| VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:  CHECK IF CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.Civ.P. 23 DEMAND S  JURY DEMAND VES NO (CHECK YES ONLY IF DEMANDED IN COMPLAINT)  VIII. RELATED/REFILED CASE(S) IF ANY  JUDGE Beverly Martin  DOCKET NO. S - SEE ATTACHED  CIVIL CASES ARE DEEMED RELATED IF THE PENDING CASE INVOLVES: (CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX)  1. PROPERTY INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT.  2. SAME ISSUE OF FACT OR ARISES OUT OF THE SAME EVENT OR TRANSACTION INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT.  3. VALIDITY OR INFRINGEMENT OF THE SAME PATENT, COPYRIGHT OR TRADEMARK INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT.  4. APPEALS ARISING OUT OF THE SAME BANKRUPTCY CASE AND ANY CASE RELATED THERETO WHICH HAVE BEEN DECIDED BY THE SAME BANKRUPTCY JUDGE.  5. REPETITIVE CASES FILED BY PROSE LITIGANTS.  6. COMPANION OR RELATED CASE TO CASE(S) BEING SIMULTANEOUSLY FILED (INCLUDE ABBREVIATED STYLE OF OTHER CASE(S)):  SEE ATTACHED  7. EITHER SAME OR ALL OF THE PARTIES AND ISSUES IN THIS CASE WERE PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED IN CASE NO.  WHICH WAS DISMISSED. This SEE IS 15 MORT (check one box) SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME CASE.  |  |   |  |  |  |
| SIGNATURE OF APTORNET OF RECORD   | / Z/(6/2)  | 9   |  |  |  |

### CIVIL COVER SHEET

## VIII. RELATED/REFILED CASE(S) IF ANY

Docket Nos.:

- 1:09-CV-1876-BBM, Chaplin, et al.
- 1:09-cv-3339-BBM, Cowan, et al.
- 6. Companion or Related Case to Case(s) being simultaneously filed (include abbreviated style of other case(s)):

Cynthia H. Cowan and Charles H. Cowan, Jr. Jerry Dalman
Kathryn Huston and Curtis Huston
Kelly Poltermann and Brad Poltermann
Jacqueline M. Spangler