

APPEAL NO. 020576  
FILED APRIL 22, 2002

This appeal arises pursuant to the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, TEX. LAB. CODE ANN. § 401.001 *et seq.* (1989 Act). A contested case hearing was held on February 11, 2002. The hearing officer resolved the sole disputed issue by deciding that the appellant's (claimant) inguinal and umbilical hernias are not a result of the compensable accident he sustained on \_\_\_\_\_. The claimant appealed on sufficiency grounds, and the respondent (carrier) responded, urging that we affirm the hearing officer's decision and order in its entirety.

DECISION

Affirmed.

The hearing officer did not err in determining that the claimant's inguinal and umbilical hernias are not a result of his compensable accident he sustained on \_\_\_\_\_. The hearing officer relied upon several factors adduced at the hearing, including that the claimant's medical records do not show that he complained of hernial pain until more than two weeks after the accident and that the required medical examination doctor could not "objectively state" that the hernias are related to the claimant's compensable injury. The hearing officer believed that the claimant failed to meet his burden in establishing the causal relationship between the compensable accident and the hernias. The claimant did present conflicting evidence, but the hearing officer is the sole judge of the weight and credibility to be given the evidence. Section 410.165(a). While another fact finder may have reached a different conclusion, this tribunal will not substitute an opinion for that of the hearing officer. Finding that the determination is sufficiently supported by the record, and is not so against the great weight and preponderance of the evidence as to be clearly wrong and unjust, we affirm the hearing officer's conclusion. Cain v. Bain, 709 S.W.2d 175 (Tex. 1986).

The hearing officer's decision and order are affirmed.

The true corporate name of the carrier is **SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA** and the name and address of its registered agent for service of process is

**LINDA LEWIS  
1600 NORTH COLLINS BOULEVARD, SUITE 300  
RICHARDSON, TEXAS 75080.**

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Terri Kay Oliver  
Appeals Judge

CONCUR:

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Thomas A. Knapp  
Appeals Judge

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Robert W. Potts  
Appeals Judge