

## **CT: No Nurse Standing By, Patient Dies From Cardiac Arrhythmia.**

The forty-one year-old patient had spent five uneventful days recuperating in the hospital following gastric bypass surgery before he began having difficulty breathing. A CT scan of his lungs was ordered.

The patient died during the procedure while in the CT machine. The autopsy reportedly did not establish a definitive cause of death.

The family's experts testified that the patient was in respiratory distress and had a low level of oxygen saturation, which was not actually being monitored at the time, and most likely experienced a fatal cardiac arrhythmia.

The family's experts went on to say that a patient in this patient's condition should have had a nurse assigned to accompany him to the CT and to remain standing by to monitor his status throughout the procedure, which would have prevented his untimely demise.

The jury in the Circuit Court, Alachua County, Florida awarded the family \$6,200,000 for the patient's wrongful death. **Fine v. Shands Teaching Hosp.**, 2010 WL 3483124 (Cir. Ct. Alachua Co., Florida, August 11, 2010).