

Post-Surgical Care: Anoxic Brain Injury Tied To Nursing Negligence.

The seventy-one year-old patient's physicians started plasmapheresis several days before abdominal surgery.

Afterward, in the PACU, he desaturated to 40% and had to be re-intubated and taken to the ICU. Two days later he was extubated and ordered transferred from the ICU to a med/surg floor.

Before he was moved, however, his O₂ sat dropped to 87%, but no one reported it to the physician and he was moved anyway. While in transfer he was getting packed red cells. On arrival on the med/surg floor no vital signs were taken.

He was found basically lifeless fifteen minutes later. A code was called and he was resuscitated.

Now he is in a nursing facility with a G-tube and respirator.

The jury heard expert testimony that the hospital's nursing staff was negligent for not communicating the drop in the patient's O₂ saturation to the physician before he was transferred from the ICU and for not monitoring his vital signs during and right after transfer to a med/surg floor.

SUPERIOR COURT, RIVERSIDE COUNTY
CALIFORNIA
July 17, 2008

The \$2,400,000 settlement of the family's lawsuit filed in the Superior Court, Riverside County, California was reported on condition the names of the parties be kept confidential. **Confidential v. Confidential**, 2008 WL 5459880 (Sup. Ct. Riverside County, California, July 17, 2008).