

Catheterization: Large Verdict For Nurse's Negligence.

The seventy year-old patient had had prostate surgery ten years earlier. At that time an artificial urinary sphincter was implanted.

He was admitted again to the same hospital where he had had the prostate surgery, this time for surgical correction of a small-bowel obstruction.

As routine post-operative care a nurse inserted a Foley catheter. In the process of inserting the catheter the patient's artificial urinary sphincter was damaged.

The patient now requires an indwelling urinary catheter.

The patient claimed he warned the nurse he "had a pump down there" but to no avail.

Pertinent Records Absent From the Chart

The court record revealed that the hospital records pertaining specifically to the catheterization were missing from the chart.

The nurse, who could not be identified, was not named as a defendant in the lawsuit, nor could the nurse be located to testify in court one way or the other about his or her actions.

Prior Hospital Chart Should Have Been Reviewed

The patient's attorneys argued to the jury that the hospital staff should have made themselves aware of his condition by taking a complete medical history and by reviewing any and all prior treatment records at the hospital.

Once his caregivers were aware of his condition, a urology consult should have been obtained before attempting urinary catheterization, the lawsuit claimed.

The jury in the Circuit Court, Lake County, Florida awarded the patient almost \$500,000. The hospital was ruled 55% at fault for the nurse's negligence and the treating physician, associated with an independent medical practice group, was ruled 45% to blame. **Jacobs v. Leesburg Regional Medical Center, 2007 WL 1976951 (Cir. Ct. Lake Co., Florida, March 30, 2007).**