

## Dialysis: Motor Vehicle Accident On The Way Home.

The patient was injured in a motor vehicle accident while driving herself home from her dialysis treatment. The investigating police officer determined it was her own inattention that caused her to rear-end another vehicle.

The patient sued the dialysis facility. In her lawsuit she alleged that the nurses negligently gave her the OK to drive herself home without fully assessing her vascular stability, that is, without taking a standing blood pressure after she was done with her dialysis treatment. A standing blood pressure, it was alleged, would have shown she was hypotensive as a result of fluid loss during the treatment.

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***The patient's nursing expert is prepared to testify that the type of treatment the patient received can increase the patient's chance of blood pressure instability, dizziness and fatigue.***

***However, there is no solid evidence the patient was hypotensive at the time of the accident or that hypotension caused her inattention to her driving.***

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NEW JERSEY  
May 7, 2010

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The US District Court for the District of New Jersey dismissed the patient's case.

The patient's nursing expert was only able to say in general terms that dialysis treatment can leave a patient hypotensive and that driving while hypotensive can be hazardous, but she had no basis to testify that this patient was in fact hypotensive when she had her accident.

The patient herself did not complain that she felt dizzy, fatigued or otherwise impaired. The Court did not see any necessity for the nurses to have obtained a standing blood pressure in the absence of such symptoms. ***McHugh v. Jackson, 2010 WL 1875578 (D.N.J., May 7, 2010).***