

## **Emergency Room: Nurses, Doctors Failed To Notice, Remove Field Bandage Applied By EMT's.**

The patient arrived at the hospital unconscious with an IV in her right leg just below the knee. The IV was secured in place with a bandage around the leg the EMT's had applied in the patient's home before transporting her.

The patient was treated in the hospital's cardiac catheterization lab and then transferred to intensive care.

Not until 28 hours after she arrived in the emergency room did a nurse in the intensive care unit notice swelling around the bandage holding the IV needle in place below the knee.

The bandage was promptly removed. However, due to necrosis of the skin, muscles and tendons, the leg had to be amputated below the knee. The surgeon who performed the amputation referred in his report to a tourniquet-like effect of the bandage on the leg while more than 10 liters of fluid were infused through the IV.

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***The only issue is the relatively straightforward standard of care for a nurse or physician with an unconscious or semi-comatose patient with a restrictive bandage on an extremity.***

***The case has nothing to do with the cardiac catheterization itself.***

COURT OF APPEALS OF TEXAS  
May 14, 2010

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The Court of Appeals of Texas ruled the patient's medical and nursing experts' reports squarely defined the standard of care and made out a case of negligence against her caregivers. **Hayes v. Carroll**, \_\_ S.W. 3d \_\_, 2010 WL 1930151 (Tex. App., May 14, 2010).