

Labor & Delivery: Patient Arrests After Epidural Injection.

The twenty-five year-old patient was admitted to the hospital's labor and delivery unit for the birth of her child.

Shortly after an epidural was started she went into cardiopulmonary arrest.

The baby was delivered by emergency cesarean and has fortunately been spared from anoxic neurological injuries.

The mother, however, has severe permanent brain damage from lack of oxygen during a fifteen minute delay by her caregivers before starting to aerate her by bagging her with an ambu bag and a further two minutes before starting CPR.

The anesthesiologist gave a test dose containing Sufenta which he injected into the subarachnoid space.

The patient's room on the labor and delivery unit did not contain necessary equipment to respond to respiratory distress or cardiac arrest, complications which are known to be possible during administration of an epidural anesthetic.

CIRCUIT COURT
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 1, 2010

The judge assigned by the Circuit Court, Champaign County, Illinois acted as mediator in reaching a \$12,000,000 settlement to be paid jointly by the hospital and the anesthesiologist's medical practice group.

The money will take care of the mother's considerable medical expenses to date as well as provide monthly allotments to the family who are expected to provide a lifetime of special care. The lawyers will also receive fees of over \$3,000,000. ***Ravanh v. Provena Hosp.***, 2010 WL 4633526 (Cir. Ct. Champaign Co. Illinois, March 1, 2010).