

Gestational Diabetes: Large Settlement For Mismanagement Of Newborn's Hypoglycemia.

The mother developed gestational diabetes during this, her first pregnancy.

An unplanned c-section was performed after signs of fetal distress. The newborn weighed slightly more than 7 lbs. and had normal Apgar scores at birth.

The hospital's standing protocol for an infant born to a mother with gestational diabetes calls for close monitoring of the infant's blood glucose and weight gain or loss compared to birth weight.

The hospital has a schedule for starting breastfeeding and/or feeding the infant with formula or expressed breast milk based on changes in weight and the blood glucose readings.

During the night, about 53 hours after birth, the infant, whose weight had dropped 10.4% since birth, got only 15 ml of formula and the mother was not able to get him to breastfeed.

At 7:00 a.m. his blood glucose was only 15.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE ARBITRATION
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
September, 2009

The arbitrator awarded over \$9,000,000 for the infant's hypoglycemic brain damage. The arbitration hearing was convened in Los Angeles, California.

The family's attorneys convinced the arbitrator the neonatal nursing staff did not follow the hospital's complicated but basically sound protocols for staving off hypoglycemia by watching the blood glucoses and seeing that the infant is fed formula or breast milk. **Confidential v. Kaiser Foundation, 2009 WL 3862916 (Med. Mal. Arbitration, Los Angeles, California, September, 2009).**