

Eye Surgery: Ice Pack, Velcro Strap Lead To Total Blindness.

The patient had just had orbital decompression surgery. The post-surgical orders included an ice pack to control post-operative swelling.

A nurse filled a surgical glove with ice and secured the ice pack in place over the operative eye with a Velcro strap.

When the surgeon later removed the strap and the ice pack and checked the patient's vision he found total blindness in the eye. The patient's medical experts related the damage to the eye to excessive pressure from the Velcro strap on the ice pack. It was not, the experts said, a complication of the surgery itself.

The Court of Appeals of Texas ruled the patient had grounds to sue the hospital for the nurse's negligence. **Baylor Univ. Med. Center v. Rosa**, __ S.W. 3d __, 2007 WL 4282433 (Tex. App., December 7, 2007).