

Intermittent Pneumatic Compression: Aides Did Not Detach Before Moving Patient.

The patient had just had total hip replacement surgery.

Two aides arrived with a gurney to take her to radiology. They moved the patient without realizing they first had to have a nurse or other knowledgeable person detach and remove the inflatable cuffs on both her legs.

Because the air lines were still attached to the cuffs the aides unknowingly dislocated the patient's hip, requiring a second surgery just twelve hours after her first to reinsert the dislocated femoral head.

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals ruled the patient did not need a medical expert to prove that improper handling by hospital employees was the cause of her injury. **Williams v. Lucy Webb Hayes National Training School**, __ A. 2d __, 2007 WL 1434922 (D.C., May 17, 2007).