

Iodine Allergy: Court Does Not Find Nurses Negligent Who Gave Contrast Medium.

The patient suffered a severe reaction during a cerebral arteriogram. She apparently was allergic to the iodine in the contrast medium which had been injected to do the procedure.

The patient sued the clinic, her physicians and the clinic's nurses for medical negligence.

A lawsuit for medical negligence must be based on expert testimony.

The expert's opinion must state specifically what the defendant healthcare professional should have done differently.

COURT OF APPEALS OF TEXAS
October 20, 2005

The Court of Appeals of Texas threw out the case against the clinic's nurses.

It is below the legal standard of care for nurses to administer a substance containing iodine to a patient known to have an iodine allergy.

However, it was not documented in the chart and the patient could offer no proof the nurses knew or had any way of knowing she had an iodine allergy.

Furthermore, the medical records showed the allergic reaction did not occur while the contrast medium was being given. A nurse must monitor a patient for signs of an allergic reaction while a medication is being infused, the court said, but in this case it occurred after the infusion was complete. ***Leday v. Zatorski, 2005 WL 2669521 (Tex. App., October 20, 2005).***