

Labetalol: Nurse Not Negligent.

The patient, thirty-two years old and thirty-six weeks pregnant, was taken to the E.R. after a persistent cough progressed to real serious difficulty breathing.

The diagnosis was congestive heart failure due to an enlarged heart. The E.R. physician spoke with the primary-care physician and a cardiologist before ordering IV labetalol, an alpha and beta blocker with known risks associated with heart failure. The patient arrested and died.

The jury in the Superior Court, Essex County, Massachusetts faulted the physicians who ordered the medication but not the nurse who gave it. **Jardine v. Caritas Hosp.**, 2009 WL 2059773 (Sup. Ct. Essex Co., Massachusetts, January 22, 2009).