

Operating Room: Positioning Error.

The Court of Appeal of Louisiana upheld the local parish judge's decision to throw out the jury's verdict of no negligence and to award damages to the patient.

When a patient is positioned for cervical surgery in the not-often-used seated position, all members of the hospital's surgical team are responsible for ongoing monitoring of chin-to-sternum clearance.

Reduced clearance could mean that carotid-artery flow is compromised; compromised carotid blood flow can cause a stroke. **Boxie v. Lemoine**, __ So. 2d __, 2008 WL 2744238 (La. App., July 16, 2008).