

Post-Surgical Care: Nurses Faulted Over Reports To Physician.

A \$600,000 settlement of a lawsuit filed in the Superior Court, Los Angeles County, California was reported with the condition that the names of the patient and hospital remain confidential.

The forty-six year-old patient had surgical repair of an old incisional hernia left from her hysterectomy.

After the procedure the patient complained to her nurses about unusually severe pain at the surgical site.

The patient also told the nurses the pain had spread down her left leg.

When the nurses got her out of bed to ambulate her, her left leg gave way.

The nurses reported the unusually severe pain at the surgical site to the surgeon. The nurse did not mention that the pain had spread down the left leg or the fact the left leg had given out during attempted ambulation.

The surgeon gave an order for the patient to stay overnight.

Radiating Pain

Not Reported to Physician

During the night the nurses continued to chart progress notes about the severe pain and the fact it was radiating down the patient's left leg.

It was not until morning, however, that the nurses informed the surgeon about the radiating pain and the fact the patient, by then, was unable to stand and walk.

The surgeon called in a neurologist who got an MRI which confirmed compression damage to the femoral nerve. To correct it the surgeon re-did the incisional repair, this time without surgical mesh.

The patient has had ongoing problems with femoral nerve damage, confirmed with nerve conduction studies, which has not resolved with time. **Confidential v. Confidential, 2007 WL 4208529 (Sup. Ct. Los Angeles, California, August 29, 2007).**