

## Post-Surgical Care: Nurses Did Not Monitor The Patient.

The fifty-seven year-old patient had had a discectomy and fusion of a herniated lumbar disc.

Right after the procedure he complained to the nurses about pain and numbness in his left foot. The nurse noted the foot was cool but the patient had sensation and could move the foot. The other foot reportedly was warm and had brisk capillary refill. Three hours later the patient was in intense pain. Two hours after that, at the 9:00 p.m. change of nursing shifts, the left foot was cold.

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***The jury heard conflicting testimony from the nurses and the physician as to whether the nurses notified the physician what was going on with the patient that afternoon and evening.***

***However, after the 9:00 p.m. nursing shift change there was nothing in the chart about the problem for almost 12 hours.***

***The next morning the patient's foot was cyanotic and partial a amputation had to be done.***

DISTRICT COURT  
HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS  
April 13, 2010

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Shortly before 9:00 a.m. the next morning the left foot was cyanotic and the patient was unable to move his toes.

Emergency surgery was successful in saving the leg itself but part of the foot had to be amputated.

The hospital paid \$250,000 during pretrial mediation to settle the patient's case that was filed in the District Court, Hidalgo County, Texas. **Salinas v. McAllen Hospitals**, 2010 WL 1953614 (Dist. Ct. Hidalgo Co., Texas, April 13, 2010).