

Preemie: Multiple IV Sites, Nurses Ruled Not Negligent.

The Court of Appeals of Indiana dismissed a lawsuit filed by the parents against the hospital alleging negligence in the neonatal care of their low-birth-weight newborn.

For six days the IV sites had to be moved about on the infant's body because of problems with infusion. Some of the abandoned IV sites required repair by a plastic surgeon.

The Court of Appeals ruled the lower court erred relying on "common knowledge" as a basis for the parents' lawsuit. Instead, the competent evidence, an affidavit from a pediatric nurse, was that infusion is a common, unavoidable problem with IV therapy, particularly with premature infants. A nurse's legal duty is to monitor IV sites very closely, report to the physician, and relocate IV sites as indicated by the physician's orders if problems occur. There was no breach of the standard of care with this patient. **The Methodist Hospitals, Inc. v. Johnson, __ N.E. 2d __ 2006 WL 3278848 (Ind. App., October 2, 2006).**