

CT: Patient's EKG, Pulse Oximeter Discontinued For Trip To Radiology Department.

The twenty-four month-old was brought to the E.R. for treatment of seizures.

He was medicated with Valium, Ativan, Ketamine and Dilantin and then intubated about a half hour after arrival. EKG monitoring and a pulse oximeter were started when the tube was put in.

About a half hour after being intubated the patient was sent from the E.R. to the radiology department for a head CT scan. He was accompanied on the trip to radiology by a nurse and a technician from the radiology department.

EKG Leads, Pulse Oximeter Taken Off

The patient's EKG leads and pulse oximeter were disconnected until he returned to the E.R.

During the CT scan the endotracheal tube became dislodged, but since the EKG and pulse oximeter were not in use neither the nurse nor the technician noticed that fact. CPR was started when the child got back to the E.R. He was resuscitated briefly, then pronounced dead about an hour after being sent for the CT.

The nurse was negligent for disconnecting the EKG and the pulse oximeter.

The hospital should have written up and implemented a strict policy that every patient with an endotracheal tube requires uninterrupted EKG and pulse oximetry monitoring.

CIRCUIT COURT
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
October 15, 2010

The jury in the Circuit Court, Cook County, Illinois awarded \$3,666,221.34 from the hospital to the family. **Thomas v. Advocate Trinity Hosp.**, 2010 WL 4953772 (Cir. Ct. Cook Co., Illinois, October 15, 2010).