

## Stroke: Nurses Did Not Attend To Patient.

Two weeks after having a transient ischemic attack the patient was brought to the emergency room with left-sided weakness and slurred speech.

Blood was taken for lab work and the patient was classified as urgent.

However, for the first five hours that the patient spent in the emergency room the only thing reportedly done for her was O<sub>2</sub> being started.

The patient's own physician was not available. The physician who was covering for him was notified of the patient's presence in the hospital. He did not come to see the patient for almost thirteen hours.

The next morning the patient could not be roused and passed away later that day.

### **Jury Faults Only the Nurses**

The family's lawsuit in the District Court for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, Louisiana resulted in a \$500,000 verdict for the family which expressly faulted the hospital's nurses for the patient's death but did not fault either of the physicians.

Both sides conceded that the patient's situation was grave and her prognosis was poor when she arrived at the hospital.

However, the jury was allowed to consider and apparently accepted the argument that at least some small chance of survival beyond her present situation was compromised by the nurses' errors and omissions, that is, doing essentially nothing for the patient in her last hours. **Norwood v. Medina, 2009 WL 1181336 (Dist. Ct. East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, January 8, 2009).**