

## Stroke: Jury Clears Nurse From Allegations Of Negligence.

Testing done at the hospital for complaints of headaches revealed that the thirty-four year-old patient had a small aneurysm in her brain.

To try to repair the aneurysm the physicians performed a stent procedure involving introduction of a wire through an arterial opening in the groin.

After the stent procedure it eventually came to light that an artery in the brain was pierced by the wire itself. The patient suffered severe complications and is now paralyzed on her left side.

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***When the patient complained of weakness on her left side the patient's nurse promptly reported to the resident physician on duty.***

***The resident believed the patient's symptoms were related to a blood clot and told the nurse to continue the Heparin.***

CIRCUIT COURT  
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
December 20, 2010

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The jury in the Circuit Court, Alachua County, Florida awarded the patient \$23,442,602 from the hospital for the physicians' negligence but nothing from the nurse's employer, a nurse staffing agency.

The nurse was not negligent. She did all that was expected of her by reporting a significant development in the patient's condition to the resident on duty.

Standards of nursing practice did not make it her responsibility to go over the resident's head to the neurosurgery service for a diagnosis of a stroke related to bleeding rather than clotting, a diagnosis which would have indicated, among other things, immediately stopping the Heparin. The hospital had no such policy for nurses caring for post-neurosurgery patients. **Gervato v. Univ. of Florida, 2010 WL 5596591 (Cir. Ct. Alachua Co, Florida, December 20, 2010).**