

Beta Strep: Patient Was Not Called Back For Positive Lab Results.

After several days of headaches, fever and body aches, the patient, a forty year-old fitness trainer who had recently gotten over a urinary tract infection, went to her personal physician's office.

Her physician, an internist, told her to go to the emergency room. At the emergency room blood was drawn for bacterial cultures. The patient was sent home the same day after the blood cultures were read as negative.

Group B Beta Strep Found Two Days Later

Two days later the lab determined the patient's blood was positive for Group B Beta streptococcus.

The patient's lawsuit alleged the emergency room medical director and the emergency room quality control nurse were negligent for failing to see that the patient was contacted about her positive blood cultures and advised to return for follow up evaluation and treatment.

SUPERIOR COURT
PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
June 1, 2009

Without being contacted and told to do so the patient returned to the E.R. several days later because her symptoms were still as bad or getting worse.

The diagnosis was endocarditis. The patient had to stay in the hospital for two weeks with aortic regurgitation and heart valve disease.

She reportedly will require valve replacement surgery at some point in the future.

The patient's lawsuit filed in the Superior Court, Plymouth County, Massachusetts settled for \$1,200,000. **Confidential v. Confidential**, 2009 WL 6521690 (Sup. Ct. Plymouth Co., Massachusetts, June 1, 2009).