

Patient Burned In OR: Too-Hot IV Bag Used For Positioning.

The patient was positioned on his right side for a procedure to remove kidney stones from the ureter on his left side.

After the procedure he had third-degree burns in the right axilla caused by the use of an overheated IV fluid bag placed there for positioning. The Court of Appeals of Texas approved a jury's award of damages for the patient's injury.

IV Bag Heated, Not Checked

Apparently the IV fluid bag was wrapped in a towel before being warmed for the patient's comfort in a microwave oven.

The court record was vague whether the towel was removed from the bag before it was used with the patient, but one way or the other no one noticed it had been overheated to the point it was hot enough to burn the patient. Medina v. Hart, __ S.W. 3d __, 2007 WL 1933041 (Tex. App., July 5, 2007).