

Ventriculostomy Catheter: Nurse Infused Mixture Meant For IV.

An ICU patient died after her nurse erroneously infused a mixture of dopamine, amiodarone, magnesium sulfate, potassium phosphate and potassium chloride into the catheter inserted to drain fluid from the patient's brain hemorrhage, rather than into her IV line.

The error was discovered by another nurse after 296 cc had infused.

The only issue for the Supreme Court of Idaho was whether to accept a medical expert's opinion on cause of death.

The court agreed with the expert that intracranial fluid overload was an acceptable theory for cause of death and toxicity from the mix of chemicals did not necessarily have to be proven. Weeks v. Eastern Idaho Health Services, __ P. 3d __ 2007 WL 600830 (Idaho, February 28, 2007).