

Cerebral Aneurysm: Lawsuit Faults E.R. Personnel.

The patient went to a retail optometry store to complain that she had been feeling something in her eye for three days. They sent her to the hospital E.R. The E.R. triage nurse checked the patient's visual acuity, finding 20/200 vision in that eye and 20/30 in the other.

The nurse had the patient seen by a second-year ophthalmology resident from the hospital's outpatient vision clinic. He carefully examined the structure of the affected eye, found nothing wrong and sent the patient home with eye drops.

The patient came back the next day and saw an ophthalmologist. He got a CT and sent the patient home with an appointment to come back and see a neurologist.

She collapsed and died at home from a ruptured cerebral aneurysm before the CT was read at the hospital. The jury in the Supreme Court, Kings County, New York awarded \$2.15 million for negligence by the E.R. personnel who failed to bring in a neurologist right away. [Collazo v. NY Eye and Ear Infirmary, 2009 WL 1199357 \(Sup. Ct. Kings Co. New York, March 18, 2009\).](#)