

Post Surgical Care: Nurses Waited To Report Drop In Blood Pressure.

Following a laparoscope-assisted vaginal hysterectomy the forty-four year-old patient was extubated, given an oxygen mask and administered morphine for pain.

Over the next few hours her blood pressure slowly dropped. Almost three hours after extubation her BP was 86/51 and significant distension of her abdomen could be seen.

However, her nurse reportedly decided since she was resting comfortably no action needed to be taken.

Fifteen minutes later a different nurse phoned an ob/gyn physician to report the low BP.

The ob/gyn did not come in for another two and one-half hours. By then the patient was drowsy and unresponsive. Her hemoglobin was very low, her clotting time was prolonged and her blood was found to be acidotic.

Exploratory surgery revealed two blood vessels still bleeding from the hysterectomy. They were repaired but the patient had already suffered irreversible brain damage.

The lawsuit filed in the Supreme Court, Queens County, New York settled for a reported \$9,000,000. [Lazare v. Theodor-Louis, 2008 WL 6039306 \(Sup. Ct. Queens Co., New York, October 2, 2008\).](#)