

Catheterization: Patient Awarded Damages For Nurses' Negligence.

Right after laparoscopic bilateral hernia repair the surgeon gave orders for in-and-out urinary catheterization to drain urine from the bladder and to confirm there was no blood in the urine indicating the bladder might have been injured during the surgical procedure.

After the surgeon had left the operating room a registered nurse inserted a Foley with an inflatable retention bulb instead of an in-and-out catheter, then had another nurse inflate the bulb while it was still in the urethra.

The injury from the first insertion and inflation and injury from a subsequent insertion by a physician sideways through the tear in the urethra from the first insertion caused the patient to require catheterization by a urologist directly through the abdomen into the bladder.

The nurse did not follow the physician's order for in-and-out catheterization, using a Foley with an inflatable bulb instead.

Another nurse inflated the bulb while it was still in the urethra.

DISTRICT COURT
TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS
April 15, 2011

The insurance company for the nurse who inflated the bulb settled for \$200,000 prior to trial.

The jury in the District Court, Tarrant County, Texas then awarded additional damages against the hospital for the first nurse's negligence, which resulted in a total recovery by the patient of \$720,000, for use of the wrong catheter and for miscommunication with the second nurse as to what the physician's orders actually were. ***Steen v. USMD Hosp.*, 2011 WL 2489051 (Dist Ct. Tarrant Co., Texas, April 15, 2011).**