

Epidural: High-Spinal Block During Catheter Replacement.

The patient's epidural catheter was being replaced for post-op pain management. She arrested for at least ten minutes before cardiac and respiratory function could be restored with epinephrine.

In the ensuing arbitration the patient's attorneys argued successfully that she should have been taken back to the O.R.

for the procedure, since high-spinal block is a recognized risk and the resources to detect and counteract it promptly are more readily available in the O.R. than on a hospital med/surg floor.

The arbitrator awarded \$2,060,569. **Skaggs v. Kaiser Foundation, 2008 WL 5638300 (Med. Mal. Arbitration, Contra Costa Co., California, December 12, 2008).**