

Fetal Bleeding: Court Puts Blame On L&D, Neonatal Nurses.

In a complex medical and nursing mal-practice case, the Court of Appeals of North Carolina assigned some measure of blame to the labor and delivery nurses and to the neonatal nurse practitioners.

While trying to attach a fetal scalp monitor, after disconnecting the external fetal monitor, the ob/gyn physician's glove came out of the cervix showing fresh blood.

At that point, according to the expert testimony accepted by the court, the nurses should have realized the baby would need a blood transfusion and should have ordered the blood right then that would be needed later.

In the court's judgment, the nurses should not have waited until more than an hour later, after the fetal heart rate had crashed and an emergency caesarian had been done and the baby had been born unresponsive. **Pope v. Cumberland County Hosp. System**, 615 S.E. 2d 715 (N.C. App., July 19, 2005).