

Gestational Diabetes: All Caregivers Cleared Of Negligence.

The jury in the Court of Common Pleas, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania returned a defense verdict in a lawsuit filed over the stillbirth of a twelve-pound fetus carried by a young mother with gestational diabetes.

Prenatal Care

Three months after beginning her prenatal treatment she weighed 305 pounds and her blood glucose was 218. She gained 110 pounds during her pregnancy.

Her obstetrician referred her to a maternal fetal medicine specialist who made the definitive diagnosis of gestational diabetes and referred her to a diabetes clinic.

A physician at the diabetes clinic carefully explained the risks of gestational diabetes, particularly the risk of an abnormally large baby. The medical plan was to lower her blood sugar by starting her on glyburide rather than insulin. She was to take her medication twice daily.

Three weeks later she had an ultrasound which indicated her fetus was, in fact, larger than normal, in the 95th percentile. She was again counseled about the risks she was facing, including the possibility that her baby would be stillborn.

She saw a nurse at the prenatal clinic two weeks later who again counseled her about the need for compliance.

A week later her blood glucose was 231. The electronic memory in her blood glucose meter revealed she was not testing. Her eating habits were poor for diabetes management, that is, she was skipping meals during the day and then eating a large evening meal.

She finally came to the hospital when she felt her baby had stopped moving. A stillborn infant was delivered by cesarean. The jury found no fault with any of her caregivers. **Caraballo v. Lehigh Valley Hosp.**, 2007 WL 4863898 (Ct. Com. Pl. Lehigh Co., Pennsylvania, December 19, 2007).