

Hemostat Left Inside Patient's Body: Jury Faults Nurses, Not Surgeon.

The physician switched the patient's laparoscopic surgery to an open abdominal procedure when internal bleeding could not otherwise be controlled. The physician relied upon assurances from the perioperative nurses that all the counts were correct and then closed the incision.

The patient came back to the physician as an outpatient several times for intractable abdominal pain before it was discovered a hemostat had been left inside her abdomen. When the hemostat was removed it was discovered that it damaged her bowel.

The patient sued the physician but not the hospital. The jury in the District Court, Dallas County, Texas ruled the physician was not at fault and awarded no damages whatsoever, blaming it entirely on the hospital's perioperative nurses. **Hughes v. Boyd, 2008 WL 1733644 (Dist. Ct., Dallas Co., Texas, January 9, 2008).**