

Continuous Bladder Irrigation: Court Faults Nurses.

The seventy year-old patient had just had a transurethral resection of the prostate and was placed on continuous bladder irrigation (CBI) by his physician to prevent or to flush out blood clots.

The nurses did not monitor his fluid intake and output as they should have.

The physician was faulted for not writing orders for the nursing staff to monitor input and output and for ordering water rather than saline solution for the CBI.

After eight hours on the CBI the patient's bladder ruptured. He also experienced hyponatremia from the use of water rather than saline. He went into kidney failure and respiratory failure and needed to stay in the hospital two extra months.

The verdict was \$1.5 million for the patient in the District Court, Nueces County, Texas. **Vela v. Bay Area Healthcare Group, 2007 WL 1412614 (Dist. Ct. Nueces Co., Texas, April 2, 2007).**