

## Medication Error: Jury Awards No Damages.

The patient came to the hospital's emergency room for a rash.

The physician ordered IV Benadryl and Decadron, oral Zantac and subcutaneous epinephrine.

The nurse gave the Benadryl and Decadron through the IV line. Then she began giving the epinephrine the same way. The patient complained she was starting to feel strange. The nurse caught her mistake right away and stopped the epinephrine after only about .1 to .3 mg of epinephrine had been given IV.

The patient said she was dizzy. Her heart was racing. The nurse put her on O<sub>2</sub> and a cardiac monitor and notified the E.R. physician. The physician ordered a cardiac enzyme workup, got a cardiology consult and had her admitted to the hospital overnight for observation.

The nurse acknowledged her mistake and apologized to the patient.

In the trial in the Superior Court, Los Angeles County, California the hospital's attorney candidly admitted to the jury that the nurse made a mistake. The cardiologist testified that the nurse's mistake caused no significant or lasting harm to the patient. The jury returned a defense verdict. **Ka-shafi v. Long Beach Mem. Med. Ctr., 2009 WL 3359012 (Sup. Ct. Los Angeles Co., California, August 4, 2009).**