

Strep Infection: Misdiagnosis By Nurse Practitioner Leads To Large Settlement.

The patient received a settlement of \$1,000,000 after having to have aortic valve replacement surgery after a lengthy and complicated bout with a bacterial infection.

Any details of the case which could possibly lead to identification of the patient or the defendant clinic or nurse practitioner are to be kept confidential according to the terms of the settlement.

Lab tests ordered by the clinic nurse practitioner came back positive for Strep viridans.

Strep viridans is often associated with bacterial endocarditis, a condition entirely consistent with the patient's ongoing symptoms which were not yielding to the packet of antibiotics that she was being given.

SUPERIOR COURT
WASHINGTON
November 7, 2010

The gist of the negligence case against the nurse practitioner was that she neglected to do the research to make herself aware of the true nature of the bacterial infection which was revealed several times by the blood tests she was ordering.

The nurse practitioner apparently confused *Strep viridans* which showed up on the test results with *Staph aureus*, a bacterium common on the skin which can show up as a stray contaminant in lab draws.

Had the true nature of the infection been discovered in time it could have been treated with specific antibiotics and the patient would not have suffered heart complications. ***Confidential v. Confidential, 2010 WL 6442667 (Superior Court, Washington, November 7, 2010).***