

## Post-Operative Care: Paraplegia Related To Nursing Negligence.

The ninety year-old patient was in the hospital recovering from a laminectomy performed earlier that day.

She complained to her nurses of severe pain and numbness in her legs and became incontinent. The patient reportedly asked the nurses to call her orthopedist who had done the surgery but the nurses declined to do so.

The next day the orthopedist came to see the patient on his regular rounds. When the patient finally was able to tell him about her pain and numbness the orthopedist ordered a CT scan. The scan revealed an epidural blood clot that was compressing the spinal nerves. He asked for an operating room for emergency surgery, but none was available for several hours.

The patient became paraplegic, then died from unrelated causes. The jury in the Superior Court, King County, Washington awarded the probate estate \$1,818,583. Sandbo v. Valley Med. Ctr., 2009 WL 3244925 (Sup. Ct. King Co., Washington, July 7, 2009).