

Perioperative Nursing: Shoulder Chair Attachment Comes Loose.

The patient was intubated and under general anesthesia. The orthopedist was positioning him for arthroscopic shoulder surgery when the shoulder chair attachment came loose and the patient fell to the floor and struck his head.

His closed head injury required three days hospitalization and allegedly disabled the patient from returning to work.

The jury in the Superior Court, Mendocino County, California awarded the patient \$859,948 based on the negligence of the hospital's perioperative nurses not knowing how to set up and secure the recently-patented shoulder chair attachment device. **Staley v. Ukiah Valley Med. Ctr., 2008 WL 5120718 (Sup. Ct. Mendocino Co., California, November 19, 2008).**