

Failure To Diagnose Stomach Cancer: Nurse Practitioner Partly To Blame.

A thirty-seven year-old wife and mother of three children died from stomach cancer.

Her widower and children sued the outpatient gastroenterology clinic where she had been seen for chronic abdominal complaints. They were awarded \$500,000 from the clinic by a jury in the Superior Court, Pierce County, Washington for medical and nursing malpractice.

Korean was the patient's first language. The clinic's nurse practitioner was faulted for not overcoming the language barrier.

The nurse practitioner got the erroneous impression and charted that the patient was not taking her Prevacid when in fact she was. Persistence of her symptoms with the Prevacid would have prompted a physician to do an endoscopy which probably would have caught the cancer. **Kim v. Priebe, 2007 WL 2415592 (Sup. Ct. Pierce Co., Washington, April 30, 2007).**