

Suture Removal: Nurse Faulted, Cidex Dripped Into Patient's Eye.

A nurse was removing a patient's sutures after eyelid surgery.

When she had difficulty with one of the sutures she reached for a different set of tweezers. Shortly afterward the patient experienced a strong burning sensation caused by Cidex disinfectant that dripped into the eye.

The patient's lawsuit alleged the nurse was negligent for carelessly failing to wipe the disinfectant off the tweezers before using them.

The Court of Appeal of Louisiana approved an award of \$45,000 for the patient from the nurse's employer. There was complicated medical testimony as to the effects of the chemical burn versus other unrelated problems the patient later had with the same eye. **Dugas v. Massiha**, __ So. 2d __, 2006 WL 1750088 (La. App., June 28, 2006).