

tPA: Patient Gets Settlement For Arm Injury From IV.

The patient came to the emergency room at 4:00 a.m. with chest pains. An EKG was normal, but she was kept. At 9:00 a.m. a second EKG showed she was having a heart attack. tPA was started right away. The heart-attack symptoms subsided.

However, as she alleged in her lawsuit filed in the Supreme Court, Suffolk County, New York, the hospital nursing staff repeatedly ignored her complaints that the IV site was painful and visibly swollen. She returned to the E.R. several more times, not for her heart condition, but for the IV site.

Finally the nurses did get a vascular surgeon to come and look at the IV site. He eventually performed two surgeries. The patient now claims to have reflex sympathetic dystrophy. The settlement was \$650,000 for nursing and medical delay in responding to her complaints. **Morton v. Brookhaven Memorial Hosp., 2007 WL 2850371 (Sup. Ct. Suffolk Co. New York, January 31, 2007).**