

ER: Testicular Injury Requires Prompt Attention From Urologist.

A sixteen year-old boy injured his groin playing basketball at home with friends. He was still in pain five hours later, so his parents took him to an emergency room. He was told he needed a testicular ultrasound, which could better be done at a nearby teaching hospital. The hospital's emergency communication center contacted the teaching hospital and tried to arranged for an immediate ultrasound to be done by a urologist.

This case is about unreasonable delay in moving forward with a diagnosis and treatment.

Testicular torsion, if that is what is going on, if not addressed promptly, can result in loss of the testicle.

The chances of successfully saving the testicle diminish as the hours pass.

Once the patient was finally seen they had to remove the testicle. At least that was done properly.

COURT OF APPEALS OF GEORGIA
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The Court of Appeals of Georgia ruled the patient had grounds to sue both hospital's for miscommunication resulting in loss his injured but salvageable testicle.

At the second hospital the emergency room nursing staff apparently thought he was non-emergent and had just showed up to wait around for a planned admission. The emergency communication from the first hospital apparently never got there. ***MCG Health, Inc. v. Barton***, __ S.E. 2d __, 2007 WL 1518345 (Ga. App., May 25, 2007).