

Uterine Bleeding: Patient Died From Hemorrhagic Shock.

The thirty-seven year-old patient delivered twins by cesarean section. Immediately afterward she developed a uterine hemorrhage for which her physicians performed a dilation and curettage and then a subtotal hysterectomy.

The patient was sent to the hospital's intensive care unit where the surgeon, her obstetrician and an ICU nurse were responsible for her care.

Her blood pressure weakened and she stopped passing urine. Several hours later she went into cardiopulmonary arrest. Her cardiac function and breathing were restored but she never regained consciousness and passed away one month later due to irreversible anoxic brain injury.

Despite signs pointing to internal bleeding and possible hemorrhagic shock, the patient's ICU nurse waited ninety minutes to draw blood for labs ordered by the surgeon after the patient's BP dropped and her urine output stopped.

SUPREME COURT
SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK
April 7, 2010

Her husband's lawsuit filed in the Supreme Court, Suffolk County, New York resulted in a settlement prior to trial.

Had the case gone to trial the experts would have faulted the ICU nurse for failing to appreciate the signs and take appropriate action for a patient losing blood internally to the point her kidneys had shut down as she was going into hemorrhagic shock.

The nurse and the hospital were also faulted for delaying the start of a blood transfusion once that was ordered by one of the physicians, apparently with no regard for the gravity of the situation. **Hall v. Porte, 2010 WL 2471792 (Sup. Ct. Suffolk Co., New York, April 7, 2010).**