

Operation On Wrong Knee: Court Faults Surgical Nurse.

The patient was sent to the hospital for exploratory surgery when his physician found a mass, possibly cancerous, in the popliteal fossa behind the left knee.

Before the arthroscopy began a perioperative nurse from the hospital marked the left knee for surgery.

However, the circulating nurse from the surgeon's medical group put the tourniquet on the other knee and the surgeon went ahead on that knee.

When the surgeon became aware of the error he went out to the waiting room and got permission from the wife to continue on the left knee, the correct knee.

The surgeon and his medical group paid a settlement and were dropped from the patient's lawsuit.

The case went to trial against the hospital in the District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, but the jury ruled the hospital was not negligent. **Malant v. Willis Knighton, 2008 WL 6153784 (Dist. Ct. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, June 30, 2008).**