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Directed Verdict For Med Mal, Wrongful Death Matter

No Failure To Diagnose Arterial Occlusion

The plaintiff alleged a failure to diagnose mesenteric arterial occlusion resulting in a bowel perforation, sepsis, several months of hospital admission and ultimately death in a 43-year-old female.

The case mediated for \$77,000 and both parties rejected the case evaluation award.

The plaintiff's internal medicine expert testified that if arterial mesenteric occlusion had been diagnosed, surgery would have been successful. The defendant argued that the plaintiff needed a vascular surgeon or, at a minimum, a general surgeon to support such a claim.

The plaintiff countered that his internal medicine expert, Barry Gold, M.D., was qualified because Dr. Gold testified that he had 20-25 similar patients who had surgery and survived.

The court granted defendant's motion for directed verdict.

Type of action: Medical malpractice; wrongful death

Type of injuries: Death from alleged failure to diagnose mesenteric arterial occlusion

Name of case: Dellabaugh v. Kallanagouda Nandihalli, M.D.

Court/case no./date: St. Joseph County Circuit, #00-992-NH, Feb. 22, 2002

Name of judge: James P. Noecker

Verdict amount: \$0 (directed verdict)

Attorney for the plaintiff: Withheld

Attorneys for the defendant: Dolores Sears-Ewald, Brian Whitelaw and Robert Aardema

Insurance carrier(s): ProNational Insurance Company

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