
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Infant Injured by Catheter's Leak

Verdict: \$800,000

***Peters v. Montefiore Medical Center*, 8785/07
(8/17/2012)**

Court: Bronx Supreme

Justice: Sharon Aarons

Plaintiff Attorney: Rory Shectman of the Law
Offices of Kenneth A. Wilhelm

Defense Attorneys: Esther Widowski (lead) and,
Aryeh Klonsky of the Widowski Law Group

Facts & Allegations: On Jan. 12, 2006, plaintiff Jahcidy George was born at Montefiore Medical Center, the Bronx. Doctors determined he was suffering abnormalities that included spina bifida. They prescribed intravenous infusion of calcium gluconate.

Jahcidy underwent surgery addressing his spina bifida. During the ensuing evening, a nurse observed swelling and discoloration of his right hand, which had the catheter, caused by extravasation of the medication. Jahcidy's mother, Crystal Williams Peters, claimed the extravasation caused permanent damage of Jahcidy's right hand.

Peters, acting individually and as Jahcidy's parent and natural guardian, sued Montefiore Medical Center, alleging the nurses failed to properly monitor Jahcidy and that failure constituted malpractice.

The plaintiffs' neonatologist reviewed the extent and progression of Jahcidy's symptoms, and opined that the infant experienced two to three hours of extravasation of calcium gluconate, contending the catheter should have been checked during each 60-minute interval. Plaintiffs' counsel claimed Montefiore's records documented hourly checks of Jahcidy, but did not indicate the catheter had been inspected.

The defense's expert neonatologist contended the swellings and discoloration could have occurred in a few minutes. Defense counsel maintained such injury could occur despite proper treatment.

Injuries/Damages: Jahcidy suffered swelling of his right, dominant arm's hand, and he subsequently developed a blister and a hole. He underwent several years of occupational and physical therapy.

Jahcidy's mother claimed he suffers a permanent residual reduction of his hand's functionality and strength. Plaintiffs' counsel contended the child may develop contractures of his hand, and the expert orthopedist opined his condition will worsen and necessitate surgery.