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Medical Malpractice and Cosmetic Procedures



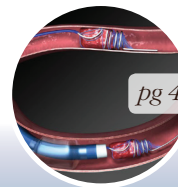
Typically, cosmetic surgeries such as face-lifts, tummy tucks, breast augmentation, liposuction, and rhinoplasty, among others, are elective procedures aimed at enhancing one's appearance. In the eyes of the law, an error committed during cosmetic surgery is on a level equal to those that occur with other types of surgeries—in some cases rising to the level of medical negligence when a patient is harmed.

To pursue a medical malpractice claim in a cosmetic surgery case, the following elements must come into play:

- **The existence of a doctor-patient relationship.** In the case of cosmetic surgery, the doctor-patient relationship is generally not in dispute. To have surgery performed, there is an implied relationship.
- **A breach of the “medical standard of care,”** which is defined as the kind of care that a similarly skilled cosmetic surgeon would have provided under comparable circumstances. Establishing the medical standard of care—and how it wasn't followed—will require expert medical testimony.
- **Injury to the patient.** This is not always as clear-cut as it sounds. A surgeon has the duty to explain the risks and possible complications of any medical procedure. If the patient was properly informed and one of these complications arose, causing the patient harm, it does not necessarily mean medical malpractice occurred. In addition, being unhappy with the surgery results does not equate to “injury.” Common injuries include infection, nerve damage, anesthesia complications, and aesthetic damage.

Medical malpractice cases are complicated and have statutes of limitations that vary from state to state. If you have suffered injury due to medical negligence, contact a medical malpractice attorney to protect your rights. •

April 2017 News



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Strive to Be an Ideal Patient After an Accident

If you have the misfortune of suffering injuries as a result of a motor vehicle accident, one of your first priorities is going to be recovering as quickly and fully as possible. The best way to accomplish that goal is to strive to be an ideal patient. Here's what we mean when we say that:



- Be sure to report all of your symptoms and be completely honest with your doctor. The key is to not downplay any symptoms (that headache or nagging depression may not seem like a big deal to you, but it could be a sign of a more serious injury), but to also not exaggerate or inflate any symptoms or injuries when discussing them with your doctor. Just be accurate and candid.
- When it comes to your appointments, medicines and any treatments, stay on top of things and be inquisitive. Don't be afraid to ask questions about why a particular medicine is being prescribed or why a certain treatment is recommended. Be fully engaged in your recovery.
- Carefully follow and adhere to your doctor's instructions and suggestions. If you are prescribed medicine, take it as scheduled and at the proper dosages. If you have physical therapy appointments, make sure you go to them. Gaps in treatment or ignoring your doctor's orders can not only affect your recovery but also can negatively impact your ability to collect full and fair compensation for your injuries.
- Be an active participant in your recovery and genuinely strive to get better. It can be easy to get down about your injuries, but it's important to push through and fight as hard as you can to recover. ●



So, What's My Injury Case Really Worth?

The value of a personal injury case that goes to trial is determined by the jury. They are given evidence to evaluate and a list of items they may take into consideration before making their decision.

When settling a case prior to trial, various factors play a role in establishing the worth of a case. A good personal injury attorney makes their evaluation based upon all the doctor's reports, present and future medical bills, and a comprehensive discussion with your doctor. Information covered should include the invasiveness of, pain associated with, and duration of treatment; future pain and discomfort; and loss of enjoyment of life. Employment considerations include lost wages and future lost wages.

Insurance companies influence the landscape, too. They keep track of cases nationwide and can crunch the numbers. They know which doctors are "overtreaters" whose bills can more easily be challenged at trial, and which doctors make poor or excellent witnesses.

Insurance companies keep tabs on attorneys who are willing to go to trial, and those who settle in every circumstance. They also know which attorneys have expertise in a specific area of law, and those who are general practitioners. Insurance companies lick their chops when an attorney sends most of his/her clients to the same doctor, which they may exploit at trial by insinuating that the doctor is shading their testimony to favor the attorney.

There is no magic formula in determining the value of a personal injury case, but hiring the right personal injury attorney can go a long way toward winning your case or achieving a fair settlement. ●

Why Autism Strikes More Boys than Girls



In recent years, research has ramped up to get to the bottom of the striking disparity between genders when it comes to the incidence of autism spectrum disorders (ASD). ASD affects approximately four times as many boys as girls.

In one theory, the PTCHD1 gene on the X chromosome plays a pivotal role. PTCHD1 is a protein coding gene that helps to

deliver information to cells during brain development. If it has mutated or is missing altogether, there is an elevated risk of autism or an intellectual disability.

Boys inherit one X chromosome from their mother and one Y chromosome from their father. Girls carry two X chromosomes. If one X chromosome carries a mutated PTCHD1 gene, or is missing it altogether, the second X chromosome provides backup, shielding a girl from ASD. However, the genetic abnormality can still be passed on to a future son.

Other research is examining the role that brain cortex thickness has on the development of ASD. The cortex is the brain's outer layer that is host to nerves involved in memory, language, thinking, and other complex cognitive functions. Males tend to have thinner cortices; women generally have thicker ones. One study found that the thinner the cortex, the more susceptible a person was to developing ASD. Women aren't invulnerable to ASD, since some women have thinner cortices than normal—in other words, more male-like thickness.

The hope with the research is to find ways to diagnose ASD earlier, allowing behavioral therapies to commence sooner, and to let prospective parents know if either of them carries a defective PTCHD1 gene that may result in autism. •

April 2017 Important Dates

April 9
Palm Sunday

April 11-18
Passover

April 13
Holy Thursday

April 14
Good Friday

April 16
Easter

April 18
Tax Day

April 22
Earth Day

April 26
Administrative
Professionals' Day

April 28
Arbor Day



Meet Pam

Position: Paralegal, Secretary, Receptionist, Dog Sitter/Walker

Experience: Pam is only "29" but has been in the legal profession for over 30 years. Pam had always worked for defense firms but changed to the Plaintiff's side when she began working here last year. Pam moved from Baltimore, Maryland 2/12 years ago to move to Myrtle Beach.

Hobbies: Golf, swimming and reading along with just being with friends on the beach.

Goals: Enjoy life to the fullest. "Just for today"!

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Major Advance in Stroke Treatment

Nearly 800,000 Americans each year suffer from strokes. According to the American Heart Association, strokes are the fourth-leading cause of death and a major source of disabilities among adults.

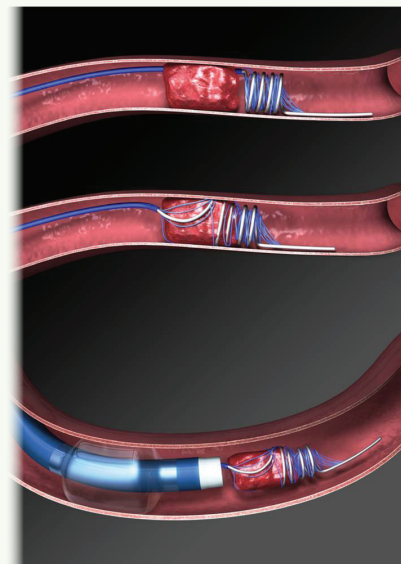
Time is of the essence in stroke treatment. A recent one-year study conducted by UCLA researchers showed that those who suffered strokes had a roughly 80 percent chance of a successful outcome—able to live independently within three months—when treated within four hours of the onset of symptoms. The percentage drops significantly beyond four hours.

For the past 20+ years, the first-line therapy for strokes has been an injection of tPA (tissue plasminogen activator), a blood-thinning medication. It is very effective on small blood clots but frequently fails to break up larger ones. However, a new therapy is proving to be a game-changer.

Stent retriever therapy involves a catheter that consists of a thin mesh column that is inserted into a blood vessel in the groin. It is guided up into the brain and through the blocked vessel/artery. The wire mesh opens and grabs onto the clot, which is then removed, restoring blood flow. The patient is awake throughout the procedure and can interact with doctors.

This new therapy can remove clots more quickly, including larger ones that are problematic for tPA, improving a patient's outlook. The only drawback associated with stent retriever therapy is that not enough medical centers offer it yet.

Stroke symptoms include a drooping of one side of the face, sudden numbness or weakness in any part of the body, blurry vision, severe headaches, and slurred speech, among others. Don't delay in calling 9-1-1 — *time lost equals brain lost*. ●



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