

asthma. While receiving dialysis at a dialysis center on September 9, 2001, plaintiff developed restlessness, a fever, hypotension and tachycardia. IV antibiotics, fluids and Dopamine were administered and she was transported by ambulance to Defendant Hospital. Upon arrival, plaintiff was hypotensive, lethargic but arousable and able to follow commands. She was admitted to the ICU with probable septic shock related to line sepsis from her dialysis catheter. Plaintiff underwent elective endotracheal intubation for airway protection.

Over the next two weeks, plaintiff remained intubated and her condition gradually improved. She began to be weaned from mechanical ventilation towards a goal of extubation. On October 2nd, the attending pulmonologist ordered that plaintiff be extubated and placed on oxygen via a face mask. She was extubated at 11:40 a.m. Two minutes later her pulse oximetry dropped and the bedside nurse and respiratory therapist attempted to ventilate the plaintiff with an ambu bag. At approximately 12:00 p.m., plaintiff suffered a cardiac arrest and was re-intubated. During the arrest, plaintiff experienced ventricular fibrillation. She was subsequently determined to have suffered severe anoxic brain damage.

Plaintiff alleged that defendant's personnel failed to promptly respond to the medical emergency following the extubation. It was plaintiff's assertion that, had she been re-intubated sooner, she would not have suffered the severe prolonged hypoxia and subsequent cardiac arrest with resulting permanent brain damage.

Defendant agreed to settle this case for \$1,300,000.

Plaintiff Profile: Plaintiff was a 45 year old single female with no children.

Alleged Injury: Cardiac arrest and severe anoxic brain damage. Plaintiff required the use of a tracheostomy tube and a jejunostomy feeding tube. She also required frequent suctioning, would never be able to walk, talk or formulate language or thought and resided in a skilled nursing facility.

Case Number: Withheld

Arlington County, VA

Circuit Court

Hospital Agrees to Pay Settlement to Woman Who Suffered Irreversible Brain Damage

Case Caption:

Jane Moe v. Anonymous Hospital

Settlement: \$1,300,000

Judge: N/A

Settlement Date: 2/2003

Attorneys:

Plaintiff: William E. Artz, Arlington
Andrew J. Waghorn, Arlington

Defendant: Withheld

Facts: A settlement was reached in a medical malpractice case in which a woman suffered permanent brain damage when she had a cardiac arrest upon extubation.

Plaintiff was a 45 year old female with end stage renal disease. She was receiving outpatient hemodialysis three times per week. Her past medical history also included obstructive sleep apnea and