
METRODIGEST

Widower awarded \$1.5 million

A Mobile County Circuit Court jury awarded \$1.5 million to the widower of a woman who died while undergoing anesthetization.

The jury verdict came Friday night following a week-long trial before Judge Douglas Johnstone. The verdict was against the anesthesiologist, Dr. Aparna Manka. The jury found in favor of Edgar Milam, a student nurse who was also named as a defendant in the lawsuit.

Mike Worel, one of the attorneys for McCarl Bennett, the widower of Georgia Bennett, said Mrs. Bennett "died while being anesthetized for elective surgery" to determine why she repeatedly had miscarriages. John Crowder also represented Bennett in the case.

Worel said the evidence at trial showed that during the procedure "the endotracheal tube used for anesthesia was improperly placed in the esophagus, which leads to the stomach, instead of the trachea, which goes to the lungs." The procedure, according to Worel, was performed by the student nurse.

Neil Hudgens, who represented Milam, said the evidence showed the student nurse was "apparently performing under the supervision" of Manka.