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\$6.5M awarded to girl who suffered brain injury during birth

(<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/parkridge/news/2921532.pr-hospital-settles-112410-s1.article>)

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A young girl who suffered a brain injury during birth that resulted in cerebral palsy was awarded \$6.5 million Wednesday after physicians failed to perform a timely Cesarean section, lawyers said.

The \$6.5 million settlement was reached during mediation with Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge and a physician, according to a release from Levin & Perconti, the law firm that represented the injured child and her family. The settlement was approved Wednesday in the Circuit Court of Cook County by Judge Elizabeth Budzinski.

On Sept. 26, 2000, Denice Cisneros was in labor with her first child at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital when a family practitioner and nurse failed to determine the presentation of the baby's head.

They then failed to diagnose cephalic pelvic disproportion, a condition that occurs when a baby's head is too large to fit through its mother's pelvis, according to the release.

An obstetrician was consulted who did not order an emergency Cesarean, according to the release. The baby's heartbeat became substantially slower for more than 15 minutes and when the obstetrician returned from performing another delivery, he ordered an immediate Cesarean.

Cisneros delivered a baby girl, who due to brain oxygen deprivation for more than 15 minutes, suffered hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy which caused cerebral palsy and mental retardation, according to the release. Cisneros was also not properly anesthetized for emergent surgery, and the staff had to hold her arms and legs down while the incision was made.

As a result of the injuries child suffered at birth, the now 10-year-old girl has difficulty walking and suffers from motor delays and moderate cognitive deficits, according to the release. Her parents use an oversized stroller to take her outside and she is expected to need a wheeled assistive device to function as she gets older.

The girl also needs assistance dressing, bathing, and using the bathroom, according to the release. The settlement will allow Yadira's family to provide her with ongoing care and medical treatment throughout her lifetime.

A spokesperson from Advocate Lutheran General Hospital was not immediately available for comment.

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