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**Family of 52-Year-Old Reaches \$3 Million Settlement in Medical Malpractice
Wrongful Death Lawsuit**

CHICAGO – December 10, 2015 – The husband and two adult children of a 52-year-old woman reached a \$3 million settlement in a medical malpractice lawsuit against Advocate Christ Hospital, Dr. Rajat Prakash, an internal medicine physician, and Dr. Keith Schaible, a neurosurgeon. The case went to trial on December 2, but settled on Wednesday, December 9, prior to jury selection, with the efforts of the Honorable Donald J. Suriano, Circuit Court of Cook County. The lawsuit alleged that after a successful brain surgery, the defendants failed to properly respond to the patient’s declining sodium levels, which caused severe swelling of her brain and eventually led to her death. The family was represented by Attorneys Steven M. Levin, Margaret Battersby Black, Cari Silverman, and Jacob Radecki of Levin & Perconti, in Chicago.

On March 11, 2011, the patient went to Advocate Christ Hospital for a neurosurgical procedure to remove a benign brain tumor, which surgery was successful. The patient was to remain in the hospital for a few days to be monitored, and then discharged to go home. While recovering from the surgery in the hospital, her sodium levels began to drop and she developed a condition called acute hyponatremia, a known risk for postoperative patients.

The patient’s after care in the hospital was co-managed by Dr. Rajat Prakash, a hospitalist, and neurosurgeon Dr. Keith Schaible. A failure on the part of the nurses at the hospital, the hospitalist and the neurosurgeon failed to recognize and treat the declining lab values and discuss the harm that could occur if the sodium was ignored, was to blame for the patient’s death. No action was taken over a two-day period where her sodium dropped 21 points, from 140 to 119.

At 7:30p.m., a code blue was called when the patient began to shake, became unresponsive, and stopped breathing in her hospital room in front of her family. Although healthcare providers were able to revive her, she suffered a brainstem herniation and brain death.

“Our client’s family hopes this lawsuit will serve as a learning experience for doctors and nurses, that when a patient’s care is being managed by multiple healthcare providers, discussions about responsibility occur, so that a rapidly declining sodium value is never again ignored in a post-operative patient,” stated Attorney Levin. “If even one patient is saved from serious injury or death, our four year pursuit of this lawsuit will have made a difference.”

“This tragedy was the result of several medical professionals’ carelessness,” stated Attorney Battersby Black. “What is even more disturbing is that ‘routine’ IV fluids that were being given to the patient were causing her sodium to drop further, and no one noticed and stopped the treatment.”

Levin & Perconti is a nationally renowned law firm concentrating in all types of medical malpractice, nursing home abuse and neglect, personal injury, and wrongful death lawsuits. The attorneys at Levin & Perconti are committed to protecting and vindicating the rights of people who are injured by the negligence of others. Please contact the firm at (312) 332-2872 or visit www.levinperconti.com for more information.

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