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Atlanta

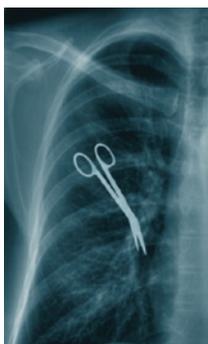
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a surgical outcome

YOU NEVER THOUGHT COULD HAPPEN



It didn't seem to make sense. You had gone through surgery two months earlier, your doctor had said it was a success and yet you were still feeling pain – a lot of pain. In fact, if anything, the pain seemed worse than it was before the surgery.

After repeated trips to your primary doctor and multiple CT scans, the source of your ongoing pain was finally revealed – your surgeon had left a surgical sponge in you during the procedure which caused a massive infection and other serious health issues.

Sound farfetched? Not as much as you might think. Truth is, foreign objects are left in patients fairly regularly – as many as 1,500 times a year in the United States alone, according to the New England Journal of Medicine.

Foreign objects can cause pain, infection, bowel problems (depending on the location of the surgery), additional and/or emergency surgeries, longer hospital stays, and in some cases, even death.

Some of the objects most commonly left behind after a surgery include:

- Sponges and gauze
- Needles
- Broken pieces of equipment
- Surgical tubing
- Clamps

Sponges and gauze are the most frequent culprits. For one thing, they compact easily into incisions which can make them easy to overlook during a procedure. Also, they tend to absorb and take on the color of fluids, helping them blend in with surrounding tissues. Some surgeries can require hundreds of sponges, making it difficult to account for and keep track of each of them.

Recent technologies such as radio-frequency identification (RFID) strips have emerged which allow sponges to be identified and removed before an incision is closed. However, because the technology is expensive, many hospitals have not yet adopted it.

If you or a loved one has suffered injuries as a result of a surgeon leaving a foreign object in your body, you may be entitled to compensation. Contact an experienced medical malpractice attorney to discuss your case. ■

MORE INSURANCE COMPANY **tricks** and **tactics**

It's unfortunate, but insurance companies and their representatives have a whole bunch of tricks and tactics at their disposal to try to deny injury claims or limit the amount of money they pay.

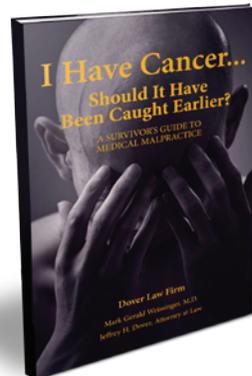
The best way to protect your rights after an accident is to make sure you are aware of some of the insurance industry's most common tactics, such as:

1. Suggesting that you go through the other driver's insurance company to get your car appraised or fixed. If the accident was the other driver's fault, don't be surprised if your own insurance company tries this approach. The bottom line, though, is that it is often much quicker to have your car fixed through your own coverage.
2. Secretly videotaping you. At times, insurance companies will hire private investigators to videotape accident victims during their day-to-day lives. Their hope is that they will catch you doing something that can be used against you during settlement negotiations.
3. Tracking your activity on social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. There's a good chance that insurance companies will be taking a look at your activities and postings on social media sites after you've had an accident. The insurer may even try to befriend you online and get you to admit to certain facts.
4. Not settling claims for a fair amount. The insurance company might jeopardize your financial well being by not offering a fair settlement or by delaying your claim.
5. Trying to discourage you from talking to a personal injury lawyer. Insurance companies know (and their own studies show) that injury victims on average receive higher settlements if they retain the services of a personal injury lawyer.

To learn more, go to DoverLawFirm.com for a free download of our special report, *Typical Insurance Company Tactics*.

I have cancer... SHOULD IT HAVE BEEN CAUGHT EARLIER?

*Important new book from Dover Law Firm
available free to Georgia residents who request it.*



We understand that a cancer diagnosis changes everything and that many victims (and their family members) are unprepared for what lies ahead.

If you or a loved one has cancer, you most likely have many questions and concerns about the disease, its treatment and its impact on your life. If you happened to receive bad medical care or feel that your cancer was misdiagnosed or detected late, your burden is that much greater.

In this easy-to-follow book, attorney Jeffrey Dover and medical doctor Mark Gerald Weissinger team up to provide people with the critical information they need when facing cancer, including:

- An overview of cancer, the types and symptoms of cancer, treatment options and terminology associated with the disease.
- A review of common errors in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.
- An explanation of medical malpractice in general, and specifically the laws as they apply in the state of Georgia.
- Examples of medical malpractice to provide victims of bad medical care with a better understanding of how the situation might apply to them.
- An overview of the legal process that cancer medical malpractice victims face.
- How to go about choosing the right Georgia medical malpractice attorney.
- What a cancer medical malpractice victim has to prove to win his or her case.
- How a contingency fee works and why anyone can afford a lawyer for a medical malpractice claim because of it.

I Have Cancer...Should It Have Been Caught Earlier? is published by Word Association Publishers and is available for \$16.95 on Amazon.com. As a public service, anyone in Georgia with cancer or with a potential medical malpractice situation involving cancer may request a **FREE** copy of the book by visiting www.DoverLawFirm.com or by calling 770-518-1133.

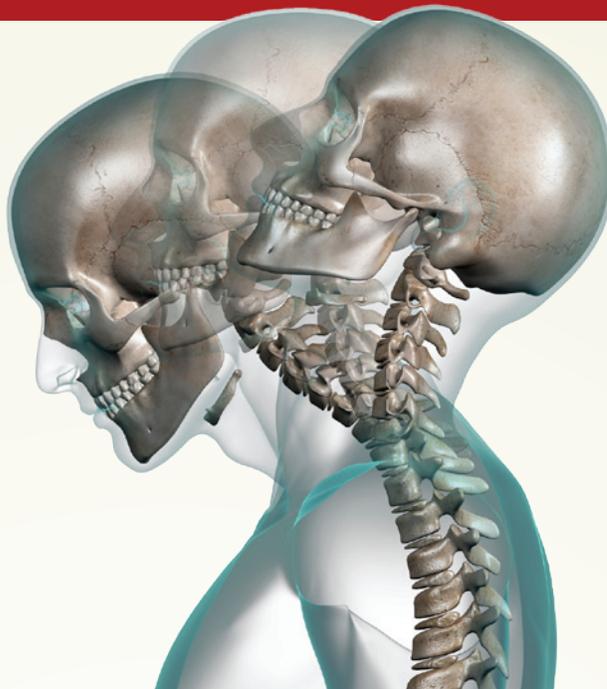
whiplash

NOT JUST FROM MOTOR VEHICLE WRECKS

Most people have heard the term “whiplash” and almost automatically associate it with a neck injury suffered in a vehicle wreck, which makes sense given that whiplash-type injuries often occur when a car or truck is rear-ended. The sudden impact causes victims necks to extend and flex in an unnatural whipping motion causing damage to muscles and other soft tissues in the cervical area.

But what many people don’t know is that whiplash is often caused by much less extreme impacts, and can include:

- Winter-related accidents such as slipping on ice or falling while skiing or snowboarding.
- Injuries in contact sports such as basketball, football or hockey.
- Any assault that involves head trauma.
- Child abuse, including shaken baby syndrome.
- Repetitive stress injuries resulting from a poorly designed non-ergonomic work area.
- Accidents in stores or restaurants that result from unattended spills on the floor or other unsafe conditions.



Whiplash is a serious injury and can result in long term medical implications if it is not diagnosed and properly treated. If you believe that you have whiplash, the key is to promptly seek medical treatment. Be aware of the symptoms of whiplash, which can include:

- Neck, shoulder or back pain
- Headache
- Dizziness and/or blurred vision
- Tingling in your extremities, particularly arms and hands
- Unexplained fatigue or difficulties concentrating

If you have a whiplash injury and you believe it is due to another person’s negligent actions, please contact a personal injury attorney to discuss your potential claim. ■

What Our Clients Are Saying

“I was represented by the Dover Law Firm, and they were exceptional. They were quick and handled my case very well. I would recommend them to anyone who needs representation.”

—Stanley Nunley,
Winder, GA

FAQ

If I’m injured in a car accident but the police officer doesn’t issue a ticket or citation to the other driver, can I still recover for my injuries?

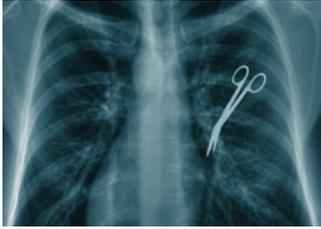
Yes, you can. A police officer does not have to issue a ticket in order for you to be able to pursue a personal injury claim against another driver. As with any injury claim, though, you will need to prove that the other driver caused the accident and was responsible for your injuries. ■



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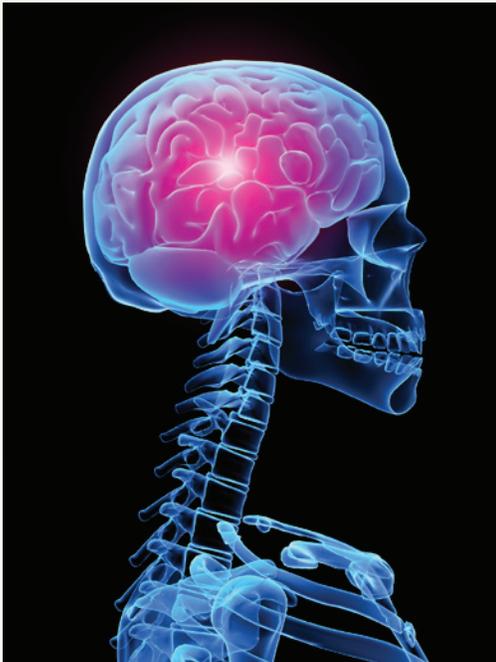
seem farfetched?



**NOT AS MUCH AS YOU
MIGHT THINK. SEE P. 1.**

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

did you know?



Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of traumatic brain injury (TBI) in people under the age of 75 and result in the largest percentage of TBI-related deaths overall. A TBI, which is caused by a blow or bump to the head or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the normal function of the brain, is sustained by approximately 1.7 million people each year.

The most common types of TBI resulting from motor vehicle accidents are closed brain injuries in which the skull is not broken or penetrated. Unfortunately, a closed brain injury

can be difficult to diagnose at first since symptoms may not be readily apparent. In some cases, it can take several weeks before symptoms (including headaches, fatigue, nausea and vomiting, confusion, slurred speech, etc.) appear.

As a result, it is vitally important that you get a thorough medical examination if you've been involved in a motor vehicle accident. If you or a loved one has suffered a TBI as the result of someone else's carelessness or negligence, you should contact an experienced brain injury attorney. ■

Visit us at www.DoverLawFirm.com