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\$3.35M for Medical Malpractice

LaMarche v. Hackensack University Medical Center

A woman hurt in a car crash accepted a \$3.35 million settlement from an emergency room doctor accused of failing to diagnose and treat a head injury, a lawyer for the plaintiff says.

Anna LaMarche, now 72, of Hackensack, suffered cuts to her forehead, upper eyelid and lip and a fractured clavicle in a Feb. 12, 2005, crash in her hometown, and was treated at Hackensack University Medical Center by Dr. Vicki Goldhill.

LaMarche was released from the hospital but suffered dizziness within a few hours and then lost consciousness. She was diagnosed with a subdural hematoma that required surgery, left her with neurological deficits and impaired her ability to walk unaided, according to **Michael Maggiano** of **Maggiano, DiGirolamo & Lizzi** in Fort Lee. He and **Daniel Pomeroy** of **Mortenson & Pomeroy** in Springfield represented LaMarche.

The Bergen County suit alleged that the hematoma would have been treated in the emergency room and its effect mitigated if the doctor had ordered a CT scan, which was the proper standard of care for a patient with the head injuries the plaintiff suffered.



Maggiano says the doctor also failed to instruct the plaintiff and her daughter to return to the hospital immediately if LaMarche became dizzy. He says the daughter assumed that the dizziness was a side effect of pain medicine prescribed in the emergency room.

Maggiano says the settlement proceeds were received in mid-March.

Defense counsel **Rowena Duran** of **Duran & Pandos** in Mountainside did not return a call. Pomeroy says the defense argued that LaMarche's symptoms in the emergency room did not fulfill medically accepted standards for the ordering of a CT scan.

— By *Henry Gottlieb*