

Jury in Abington Hospital case awards \$20M

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A Montgomery County, Pa., jury Friday awarded \$20 million to a blind 6-year-old boy whose doctors allegedly failed to properly treat a curable retinal condition when the child was an infant.

According to Shanin Specter of Kline & Specter in Philadelphia, the attorney for the boy, the jury awarded \$17.68 million for loss of life's pleasures to Emmitt Lee, a boy born prematurely in June 2000 at Abington Hospital.

The boy was awarded \$1 million for lost wages and \$1.35 million for life care expenses. Specter said 60 percent of liability was assessed to Abington Hospital of Abington, Pa., 35 percent to the treating staff neonatologist, Ara Moomjian, 4 percent to Huntingdon Valley Eye Care Consultants Inc. and 1 percent to treating pediatrician Thomas Kennedy.

Lawyers involved in the case said the jury verdict could be the highest ever assessed in a Montgomery County personal injury case.

Pennsylvania Supreme Court data shows that between 2000 and 2005, the highest verdict awarded to a medical malpractice plaintiff was \$5 million.

Richard Kolb of White & Williams, the lawyer for Abington Hospital, could not be reached for comment.