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Philadelphia Daily News
Posted on Tue, Nov. 23, 2010



Jury OKs \$27.6M for woman in knee-injury suit

Four years and four surgeries later, a jury has awarded \$27.6 million in the case of a prominent Philadelphia woman who was injured after using exercise equipment in a promotional video for the manufacturer of replacement knees.

Margo Polett, 71, a board member at Rosemont College, had knee-replacement surgery on both knees in June 2006.

Nearly two months later, Polett's surgeon, Robert Booth, asked her to participate in a film being shot at Pennsylvania Hospital for Zimmer Inc., a manufacturer of orthopedic products and instruments, according to the civil suit.

For the film, Polett used an exercise bike and treadmill for several minutes to demonstrate her recovery.

A month after the video shoot, she returned to Booth with pain.

She returned to the surgeon several times with complaints ranging from swelling to loss of range of motion in her knees.

From 2006 to 2008, she had four surgeries, but none repaired the damage, said her attorney, Shanin Specter.

She remains in constant pain and must use a walker, he said.

A Common Pleas jury found that Public Communications Inc., the Chicago-based public-relations company that made the film, was 36 percent liable for Polett's injuries, and found Indiana-based Zimmer 34 percent negligent. Polett was found 30 percent negligent.

Of the total awarded, Polett's husband, Dan, owner of Wilkie Lexus and former chairman of the board of Temple University, was given \$1 million for loss of consortium including time he spent away from work to care for his wife.