

Hospital Hit With \$8M Verdict Over Botched Cesarean Section

By **Jonathan Capriel**

Law360 (June 15, 2023, 10:18 PM EDT) -- A Pennsylvania state jury hit a hospital with an \$8 million verdict after finding one of its doctors had mishandled a cesarean section, causing the mother to suffer two cardiac arrests and ultimately resulting in an emergency hysterectomy, attorneys for the woman announced.

The jury found that the care provided by the obstetrician who delivered Laura Rongione's second baby in December 2013 fell below the standard of care and was in fact negligent, according to the **three-page verdict sheet** provided by plaintiff's attorneys. It awarded her and her husband Randy Rongione \$5.5 million for pain and suffering and \$2.5 million for loss of society, comfort and companionship.

While the form identifies "100%" of the negligence to be on Dr. Kanli Jiang, the damages are levied against her employer, Abington Memorial Hospital, explained Kline & Specter PC, the firm which represented the Rongiones.

"The jury made the correct decision based on compelling evidence and held Abington accountable for its substandard care," said Elia Robertson, of Kline & Specter PC, who tried the case.

According to the complaint, Rongione was admitted into Abington after goin into labor in her 39th week of pregnancy. When she began to push, the baby's heart rate became irregular. Jiang attempted to extract the baby through vacuum extraction. When that failed she called for an immediate cesarean, the complaint said.

Jiang delivered the child just before 5 am and closed the incision an hour and half later. But she did not properly inspect Rongione even though there was a complication during the operation. Specifically, there are no notes that Jiang ordered or conducted an inspection of the uterine artery despite having recorded an extension of the uterine incision.

The suit said that within hours, Rongione's vitals took a dive. Before 10 a.m., she went into asystolic cardiac arrest which required medical staff to administer chest compressions. Another doctor reopened her incisions, where medical staff found nearly three liters of blood in her abdomen. The surgeon clamped the artery, and it was determined that an emergency hysterectomy needed to be performed, the lawsuit said. Sometime after, Rongione suffered another cardiac arrest.

The complaint named three other physicians as defendants, but the jury only pinned blame on Jiang.

Counsel for the hospital did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Rongiones are represented by Elia Robertson and Lisa Dagostino of Kline & Specter PC.

Abington is represented by Benjamin A. Post and Chloë L. Mannings of Post & Post LLC.

The case is Rongione et al. v. AbingtonMemorial Hospital, case number 2014-27658, in the Court Of Common Pleas Montgomery County.

--Editing by Emily Kokoll.