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\$17.5M for ex-Marine for stroke after VA surgery

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — An ex-Marine disabled from a stroke that followed dental surgery at a Veterans Administration Medical Center in Philadelphia has been awarded \$17.5 million.

Lawyers for 53-year-old Christopher Ellison say his blood pressure dropped sharply several times while having eight teeth removed in 2007.

A federal judge Wednesday found Dr. Mark Abel negligent in not stopping the surgery.

Ellison suffered a stroke and crashed his car as he drove home alone. He did not get to a hospital in time for post-stroke therapy, which sometimes prevents permanent damage.

Ellison has serious brain damage and needs full-time care at his Bridgeport home.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Johnson says the verdict against the U.S. government will be reviewed for a possible appeal.

Family lawyer Shanin Specter calls the verdict appropriate, given the injuries.