

Daily Journal
VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

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DAILY JOURNAL VERDICTS AND SETTLEMENTS



TOP VERDICTS



Rodriguez v. Emanate Health Foothill Presbyterian Hospital

Verdict: Defense

Los Angeles Superior

Topic: Medical

Subtopic: Malpractice

Detail: Wrongful Death

Defense - Kent T. Brandmeyer (Law Brandmeyer LLP)

Decedent Candida Rodriguez was diagnosed with signet cell ring stomach cancer in May 2019. After four cycles of chemotherapy, she was referred to defendant Dr. Aziz Ahmad, a City of Hope cancer surgeon, for a gastrectomy with feeding jejunostomy.

See page 5 for a full summary



MEDICAL

MALPRACTICE

Wrongful Death

Verdict: Defense

CASE/NUMBER: Serafin

Rodriguez v. Emanate Health
Foothill Presbyterian Hospital, Aziz
Ahmad, M.D. / 20STCV48038

COURT/DATE: Los Angeles
Superior / Jan. 28, 2025

JUDGE: Frederick C. Shaller

ATTORNEYS:

Plaintiff - Randall S. Schiavone
(Kampf, Schiavone & Associates)

Defendant - Kent T. Brandmeyer
(Law Brandmeyer LLP)

FACTS: Decedent Candida Rodriguez was diagnosed with signet cell ring stomach cancer in May 2019. After four cycles of chemotherapy, she was referred to defendant Dr. Aziz Ahmad, a City of Hope cancer surgeon, for a gastrectomy with feeding

jejunostomy. This procedure was performed at Emmanate Foothill Presbyterian Hospital in Glendora on Sept. 23, 2019. Post-operatively, the decedent recovered uneventfully for five days. Unfortunately, on September 29th, she started leaking tube feed into her abdominal drain. She also developed septic shock with low blood pressure, fever and a low white blood cell count. Dr. Ahmad decided to attempt to treat the patient non-operatively with IV

fluids and antibiotics. The patient was moved to the ICU. Three days later on October 3rd, her mild clinical improvement stopped and Dr. Ahmad decided to return the decedent to surgery, where he found a perforation in her bowel the size of his hand. He believed the area of necrosis was caused by a chemical reaction to the leaking tube feed. He did a repair of the bowel and had to also re-do the esophagojejeunal anastomosis. Eventually, this connection fell

apart and the decedent, age 51, died of sepsis on October 13, 2019.

PLAINTIFF'S CONTENTIONS:

Plaintiff contended that Dr. Ahmad should have immediately returned the decedent to surgery on September 29 or 30 when the leak was appreciated. The sepsis was not going to improve without controlling the source by repairing the large hole in the bowel.

DEFENDANT'S CONTENTIONS:

Dr. Ahmad contended that it was reasonable to try and control the bowel leak and sepsis non-operatively. He didn't know until he reoperated three days later that the bowel defect was as large as it was.

INJURIES: Death of Candida Rodriguez, leaving behind her two adult children and husband.

RESULT: Defense verdict.

FILING DATE: Dec. 20, 2020