



**December 17, 2011**

## **Jury orders Hurley Medical Center to pay nearly \$60,000 in malpractice case**



By Gary Ridley



FLINT, MI -- A jury has ordered Hurley Medical Center pay nearly \$60,000 in a lawsuit claiming a surgeon at the hospital botched a Grand Blanc woman's gallbladder operation.

Jurors reached the verdict Wednesday, Dec. 11, after more than a day of deliberation following a four-day trial heard by Genesee Circuit Judge Geoffrey L. Neithercut.

Deidre Gray-Taylor filed the lawsuit against the hospital and Dr. Kurt Kralovich in June 2011 after she claimed Kralovich made errors during the 2009 operation.

Gray-Taylor's attorney, Brian A. Molde of Detroit-based McKeen and Associates, said that the surgeon failed to take the proper precautions to identify the duct and artery that needed to be cut in the procedure. Molde said the surgeon inadvertently cut the artery that went to the then-46-year-old Gray-Taylor's liver and the duct that went to her small intestine.

The mishap forced Gray-Taylor to be rushed to Henry Ford Medical Center where she had to undergo a second surgery to fix the mistake, according to the lawsuit. The second surgery left Gray-Taylor with a large scar across her rib cage and persistent pain that has limited her regular activity, Molde said.

Hurley declined to comment on the verdict.

"Hurley Medical Center is unable to release any details surrounding the jury verdict," said hospital spokeswoman Ilene Cantor. "Dr. Kurt Kralovich is no longer a member of the Hurley Medical Center staff."

But, Flint attorney J. Brian MacDonald, who represented Kralovich in the case, said that the verdict shows the jury didn't necessarily buy into all claims Gray-Taylor made in the lawsuit, in which she originally sought in excess of \$400,000.

"I believe the jury worked very hard to come to the right conclusion," MacDonald said.

Kralovich is currently employed at a Dearborn hospital, MacDonald said.

McKeen and Associates, a law firm that specializes in medical malpractice, [won a nearly \\$13 million verdict](#) against Genesys Regional Medical Center earlier this year in a Genesee County birth trauma case.