

Hospital's failure to report CT scan information causes months of pain and suffering for patient

Two radiologists failed to diagnose a clearly documented physical ailment.

Marty Thompson (not his real name) was a 25-year-old man with a history of Crohn's Disease since he was 11 years old. The disease had been fairly well controlled with appropriate medications. Flare-ups of the disease required additional medical intervention, but once resolved, Marty resumed normal activities.

In December 2014, 17-year-old Marty began losing a significant amount of weight and was enduring persistent diarrhea and abdominal pain. Because of his medical history, his doctors ordered a CT scan with contrast. The reading radiologist suggested colitis involving the descending, sigmoid colon and rectum. Although the scan had also revealed a large abscess in the abdominal wall muscle, the abscess was not reported by the radiologist. Thus, Marty received no medical intervention for this critical finding, and his health continued to deteriorate.

Early in 2015, Marty's gastroenterologist recommended that Marty be admitted to a hospital. His health had declined significantly, and he was now suffering from dehydration along with weight loss, pain, and diarrhea. Another CT scan was performed and read by a second

radiologist who compared that scan with the one from December 2014. The scans were similar, but the more recent scan appeared less significant to the degree of mucosal thickening and edema. Once again, no mention was made in this second radiologist's report of the large abscess in the abdominal wall and a fistula (or opening) to the colon. Marty was consulted by gastrointestinal and infectious disease doctors, provided intravenous rehydration, and treated for

acute Crohn's colitis. He was discharged after nine days without being informed of the CT scan's critical findings regarding the large abscess in his abdomen.

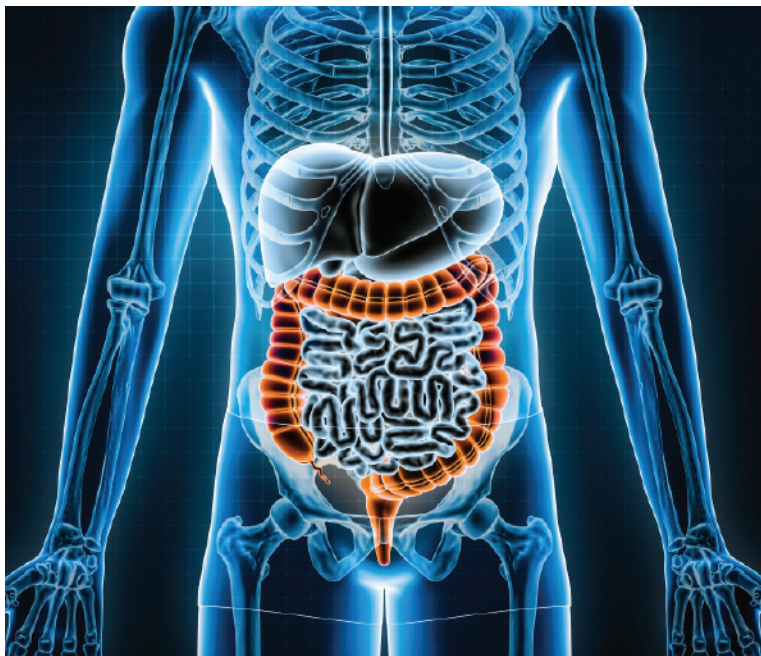
Three days later, Marty returned to the emergency room of the hospital complaining of the pain and diarrhea. He was again rehydrated and given pain medication. Prednisone was prescribed in addition to his prior Crohn's disease medications. No CT scans were ordered. Again, the third time, Marty returned home without knowledge of, or medical intervention for, the abdominal abscess and fistula.

Less than one week later, Marty had to return to the hospital complaining of pain so severe that he had almost lost consciousness. A third CT scan was ordered and read by a

third radiologist, with comparisons to the earlier (second) CT scan. The new radiologist identified and reported the abscess noted on both scans that suggested ulcerative colitis. Marty was now gravely ill due to the three-month delay in diagnosis and treatment for his condition. He now endured several months of painful, grueling treatments and invasive surgeries, including multiple bowel resections.

Seeking help in finding accountability for his months' long suffering and long-term health risks, Marty and his

family contacted Searcy Denney attorney **Brian Denney**. Mr. Denney conducted a detailed investigation and filed lawsuits against the hospital and the first two radiologists who had failed to diagnose Marty's clearly documented physical ailment. After vigorously litigating the case for several years, Mr. Denney was able to reach a settlement prior to trial for a confidential amount that will help Marty continue a lifetime of qualified health care. ♦



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