



Misplaced Feeding Tube Results in Death

Welcome and thank you for joining me. I'm Gerry Oginski a New York Medical malpractice and personal injury trial lawyer practicing law here in the State of New York.

Today's tip is about the improper placement of a feeding tube resulting in death. Now, a feeding tube is designed to provide you with total nutrition in the event you are unable to eat on your own. And when they provide it, it comes pre-packaged and it's supposed to have all the nutrients that you need in order to sustain you. It's very high in fat. It's high in protein. And, typically, it's supposed to be put into the belly, into the stomach or in the area that's going into the stomach.

Well, what happens if that tube is not put in correctly or it leaks? What happens is you now have a foreign material that's leaking into an area of your abdomen where it's not supposed to go. Well, what are the effects of something like that happening? The effects, typically, will include infection. And when you have that type of infection it can, and often will, become systemic. That's known as sepsis. When you have a septic infection that means you have an infection throughout your body. And there have been incidences where people have died because of this system-wide infection started from an improperly placed feeding tube.

So what the doctors typically do, once they place the tube, they will take various tests to make sure that the placement of that tube is in the correct place. When they fail to recognize that it's in the correct place, that's when disaster strikes and somebody picks up the phone to call me after their loved one has died.

That's it for today's tip. I want to thank you for joining me. I'm Gerry Oginski here in New York. Have a great day.

If you have legal questions, then I encourage you to pick up the phone and call me. You can reach me at 516-487-8207 or by email at lawmed10@yahoo.com. I welcome your call.