

The San Diego Union-Tribune
October 17, 2003

\$4.3 million awarded to dead patient's kin

PASADENA — A jury awarded \$4.3 million to the family of a 39-year-old woman who died following a surgical obesity treatment.

Tracy Mayes went into Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena in 2000, for gastric bypass surgery. She died two months later, after going into septic shock from a leak near the bypass.

On Wednesday, jurors found Mayes' radiologist, Dr. David Bryan, and his group negligent in her death.

When Mayes began experiencing complications following the surgery, Bryan misdiagnosed the problem, said the family's attorney. By the time the error was discovered, she had gone into shock, he said.

Mayes' surgeon, a specialist and the hospital were originally listed as defendants in the case, but only the case against Bryan was submitted to the jury.

Associated Press