

Mom: Was misled by doctor after surgery She testifies she saw staples on both sides of son's head after brain operation

BY ANDY DAVIS ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

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After an operation in which a surgeon mistakenly operated on the wrong side of Cody Metheny's brain, the surgeon left the impression that he had only cut through the skin, but that the brain had not been affected, the boy's mother testified Thursday.

The surgeon, Dr. Badih Adada, assured her that "no damage had been done," Pam Metheny testified.

She and her husband, Kenny Metheny, contend in a lawsuit filed in Pulaski County Circuit Court against Arkansas Children's Hospital's insurance provider that Adada cut into Cody Metheny's skull and removed a piece of his brain before realizing he had operated on the wrong side.

Adada then performed the operation on the right side, removing a lesion that was believed to be the cause of Cody Metheny's seizures. He was 15 at the time.

When Pam Metheny removed the bandages from her son's head, she said that she was surprised to see 35 staples on the left and right sides of his head.

She had thought only a small cut had been made on the left side, "not the exact same incision on both sides of his head," she testified.

No one from Arkansas Children's Hospital ever fully explained what had happened, she said. After surgery, Cody Metheny became more childlike, she said. Instead of skating or playing with friends, he would watch Disney movies or lie on the floor and play with toy cars. He spent more time sleeping or staying in his room, she said.

"He didn't want to do anything," Pam Metheny said.

Cody Metheny, now 19, graduated from Parkview High School last year with the help of a modified curriculum. Since February, he has been at the Neurological Rehabilitation Center in Virginia Beach, Va.

Pam and Kenny Metheny claim their son will never be able to live on his own or hold a job. They want Medical Assurance Co. to pay damages to support him for the rest of his life.

Attorneys for the insurance company say the operation didn't harm the boy.

The jury trial began last week before Judge Ellen Brantley and is expected to conclude next week.

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