

## Jury awards Mobile couple \$11 million in medical suit

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A trial jury Friday awarded a Mobile couple \$11 million in a malpractice suit after the 39-year-old man was rendered a quadriplegic after elective surgery on his neck in May 1982.

After a five-day trial in Mobile County Circuit Judge Braxton L. Kittrell's courtroom, the jury issued a \$10 million judgment in favor of Dan Stanley and \$1 million to his wife, Carol. The award was issued against Neurosurgery P.A. and Dr. Henry C. Mostellar Jr.

Stanley's attorneys, John T. Crowder Jr. and Robert T. Cunningham Jr., said their client walked into the hospital for elective surgery on his neck and when he woke up, he was a quadriplegic.

Crowder said the physicians put Stanley's neck in the wrong position and it caused him to be paralyzed.

Crowder said Stanley was operated on at the wrong level on his neck. He said a CT

scan showed a problem at one level and they ignored it and operated on a different level.

After the first operation, the defendants went back in and on the second operation they found three big disc fragments. Crowder said those fragments were removed and Stanley regained some of the use of his arms.

However, Crowder said the defendants waited four and a half hours to operate the second time. "Our experts say they could've gone back in again in 30 minutes and he would have had a better recovery," he said.

Crowder emphasized that the surgery was elective. It was not an emergency. "He walked in to the doctor's office. He walked in to the hospital. And when he woke up he was paralyzed."

Crowder said Stanley had worked at Marriott Corp. before the operation. "Nothing's going to make him whole," Crowder said, adding "the verdict will restore his pride and dignity."