KIDNEY DONOR DEATH

Inappropriate use of tool results in renal artery bleed

"We were just in shock and deep sorrow to learn that our actions thus far and our efforts to try to stop the practice had been ineffective." Dr. Amy Friedman, Director of Transplant Services at Upstate Medical University in New York, who had raised concerns about using clips in kidney donors in 2004

More Detailed Cause-and-Effect

The patient died from a massive, sudden bleed caused by the bleeding of the renal artery which was open. The renal artery had been opened as part of the kidney donor surgery, and had been closed using clips that slid off the renal artery. The stump remaining on the renal artery after this kind of surgery is too short to allow the clips adequate purchase, and the clips slid off. The hospital staff was unaware that these clips were contraindicated for this use. Although a warning was placed on the instructions for the clips, these instructions were not kept in the operating room. Additionally, the manufacturer sent out several letters to hospitals warning them not to use these clips for kidney surgery. However, at that time, this hospital was not using the clips, and had forgotten about the letters when the clips were purchased.

Basic Cause-and-Effect

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