

Timeline : When it happened

**Patient death from complications of liposuction
Calgary, Canada
July 31, 2008**

Date	Time	Description
July 18, 2008		Patient went in for a routine tummy tuck
	5:00 p.m.	Patient's husband picked patient up after surgery
		Patient was ill; assumed it was reaction from anesthesia
July 19, 2008		Patient woke with headache
		Headache got progressively worse
	7:30 p.m.	Patient unable to tolerate pain; husband calls ambulance
		Patient taken to Foothills Hospital
		Paramedic spoke with ER doctor about patient's pain
		Paramedic gave patient morphine with ER doctor's permission
		Patient went into convulsions and stopped breathing
	t = 0	Patient taken into ER for treatment
	t + 1 hour	Attending physician tells husband patient will not survive the night
	t + 2 hours	Patient moved to Intensive care unit (ICU)
		1st CT scan shows fluid around the brain
		2nd CT scan shows 3 small strokes
		3rd & 4th CT scans shows slight decrease in swelling, no additional strokes
		Patient kept in chemically induced deep coma on life support
July 29, 2008		Patient's skull pressure peaking beyond normal
		Patient given Mannitol to reduce fluid in the brain
		Patient moved to a stronger form of sedation
		Patient's lungs collapsing due to excess fluid in chest
		Ventilator inflating lungs to keep them open
		Swelling in bowel
		Stopped feeding tube in hopes that bowel would deflate
		Patient being fed via intravenous
July 30, 2008		Pressure in patient's head increased far above normal; not able to be reduced with medication
July 31, 2008		Constant pressure in patient's brain leaves her inoperable
		Patient being kept alive by blood pressure medication and ventilator
	1:15 p.m.	Patient's life support withdrawn
		Patient passed away

Outline: What happened

What When	Problem(s)	Patient death
	See timeline	
	Different, unusual, unique	Fat embolism; patient had declined liposuction
Where	State, city	Calgary, Canada
	Facility, site	Private clinic
	Task being performed	Abdominoplasty with liposuction

Impact to the Goals

Patient Safety	Patient death	
Compliance	?	
Employee Impact		
Organization	\$1.26 million lawsuit	
Patient Services	Patient unaware that she had liposuction	
Environmental	N/A	
Property, Equip, Mtls	N/A	
Labor, Time	Public inquiry	
	This incident	\$0
Frequency	Odds of fat embolism clotting brain 1/ 1 million	
	Annualized Cost	\$0

