

**BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND  
DISCIPLINE**

**No. C02-143  
C 02-230**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
M. Taghi Rajabiun, MD  
License Number MD 4041**

**Consent Order**

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §5-37-5.2, 1956, as amended, (2002 Reenactment) a complaint was reported to the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline regarding M. T. Rajabiun, M.D. ("Respondent"). This matter was referred to an Investigating Committee of the board for review and recommendation. The following are findings of fact and conclusions of law:

**FINDINGS OF FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The Respondent is a physician who has been licensed to practice medicine in Rhode Island since 1968. He practices in the specialty of Thoracic Surgery and has been Board Certified since 1972.
2. The Respondent undertook the care of an 83 year-old woman who had presented to the Landmark Hospital with complaints of severe pain in her right leg and foot with numbness for the past 10 days. An examination revealed the right lower extremity to be cold with bluish discoloration to the mid-calf

3. Respondent started the patient on IV Heparin immediately and advised her to have a right femoral arteriogram that was performed two days later which demonstrated femoral artery occlusion.
4. Respondent performed a femoral distal popliteal bypass under epidural anesthesia. The epidural needle was inserted by an anesthesiologist after multiple attempts. Respondent was not aware at the time that multiple attempts to insert the needle were required. Following the operation, the epidural appeared bloody and epidural solution was not given. These facts were not reported to the Respondent.
5. Post operatively, the patient appeared confused and had atrial fibrillation. She was placed on 1000 units of IV Heparin at 6:00 p.m. At approximately 10:00 am, the respondent removed the epidural line without discontinuing anticoagulation because the patient was very restless and the Respondent was concerned that the catheter may break off. Two hours later the patient was unable to stand and developed bilateral lower extremity paralysis. The patient was transferred to Rhode Island Hospital where an MRI scan demonstrated an extensive thoracolumbar epidural hematoma. T12, L1 and L2 laminectomies were performed but the paralysis persisted.
6. The Board finds the Respondent did not meet acceptable standards in violation of RIGL 5-37-5.1(19) because the patient's epidural should not have been removed by the treating surgeon, without consulting with anesthesia department with heparin running.


**The parties agree as follows:**

Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board.

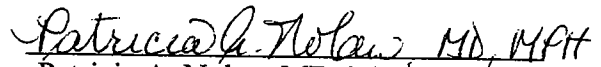
- (1) Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:
  - a. The right to appear personally or by counsel or both before the Board;
  - b. The right to produce witnesses and evidence in his behalf at a hearing;
  - c. The right to cross examine witnesses;
  - d. The right to have subpoenas issued by the Board;
  - e. The right to further procedural steps except for specifically contained herein;
  - f. Any and all rights of appeal of this Consent Order;
  - g. Any objection to the fact that this Consent Order will be presented to the Board for consideration and review;
  - h. Any objection to the fact that it will be necessary for the Board to become acquainted with all evidence pertaining to this matter in order to review adequately this Consent Order;
  - i. Any objection to the fact that potential bias against the Respondent may occur as a result of the presentation of this Consent Order.
- (2) Acceptance of this Consent Order constitutes an admission by the Respondent that the findings of fact were made by the Board.
- (3) This Consent Order shall become part of the public record of this proceeding once it is accepted by all parties.

- (4) Failure to comply with this Consent Order, when signed and accepted, shall subject the Respondent to further disciplinary action.
- (5) Respondent is issued a Reprimand in the instant matter.

Signed this 9 day of Sept., 2004.

  
M. T. Rajabiun, M.D.

Ratified by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline at a meeting held on September 8, 2004.

  
Patricia A. Nolan, MD, MPH  
Director of Health