

CASE STUDY (courtesy of JMW Solicitors)

Gall bladder operation goes wrong at private hospital leaving patient with £18,000 bill

Antony Louca, 68

Mr Louca is being represented by Judith Farrow, a specialist medical negligence solicitor at JMW. The case is in the early stages and there have been no admissions of negligence/liability.

Antony Louca, 68, of Seven Oaks, Kent, underwent an operation to remove his gall bladder in December 2013 at a private hospital.

The operation was carried out on 17 December and the following day Mr Louca was informed that he could go home that afternoon. Mr Louca says he and his wife were not made aware that there had been any problems or complications.

Around midnight the following day whilst back at home Mr Louca developed severe stomach pain and was violently sick. He called the hospital and was told to come in. He arrived at around 2.45am.

A surgeon prescribed antibiotics. Mr Louca was nil-by-mouth for four days during which time he lost a lot of weight as he was unable to eat. Procedures were carried out to try to relieve his symptoms, including fitting a stent to the lower part of his bile duct, but none were successful. Weeks later in January it came to light Mr Louca's bile duct had been cut during the operation to remove his gallbladder.

Mr Louca says he was informed that he would need major reconstructive surgery but this would need to be carried out in London. Mr Louca was then transferred to a specialist at a private London hospital despite him raising concerns that his insurance policy did not cover London hospitals. However Mr Louca was informed that if that was the case work would be carried out under the NHS.

Mr Louca was then informed that his insurance company would only cover £22,000 of the cost of the £40,000 operation. Mr Louca says that due to the terrible condition he was in he agreed to pay the remainder of the costs himself and he underwent reconstructive surgery on 14 January 2014.

Due to his ordeal Mr Louca says he lost 2.5 stone in weight and was jaundiced for three months and needed medication for months.