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## Failure to provide timely diagnoses and corrective surgery resulted in death

Mr. Doe went to the hospital for a simple hernia repair. After the surgery, Mr. Doe was in a lot of pain. He was so nauseous that he began vomiting. Postoperative films interpreted by the radiologists revealed a high-grade small bowel obstruction. Unfortunately, the surgeon disagreed with the radiologic interpretation. Mr. Doe continued to suffer with abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting.

Despite Mr. Doe's deteriorating condition and the objective radiologic findings, the surgeon chose to "watch and wait" to see if Mr. Doe improved. Instead of timely returning him for surgery to correct the problem, the surgeon left for the weekend.

While the surgeon was gone and for several days after he returned, Mr. Doe continued to complain of severe abdominal pain and vomiting. On physical examination, his abdomen felt tender and was distended. Additional radiology studies confirmed persistent highgrade small bowel obstruction and a severely dilated bowel. Finally, after seven agonizing days, the surgeon finally returned Mr. Doe to surgery.

Unfortunately, the second surgery occurred too late. The ischemic bowel injury resulted in a massive inflammatory process leading to organ dysfunction and death. Tragically, Mr. Doe left behind a wife and child. The case was settled on the eve of trial by **Karen Terry**, for a confidential amount in seven figures. ♦