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**Delayed Cancer Diagnosis and Complicated Surgery Results in
Settlement for Bronx Residents**

Lake Success, January 2022... The New York medical malpractice/personal injury law firm of [Pegalis Law Group, LLC](http://pegalislawgroup.com) announces that it has secured a substantial settlement for the family of a now-deceased wife and mother. Due to a significant delay in diagnosis of a cancerous thyroid tumor and an unfortunate outcome of surgery to remove it, the patient was permanently paralyzed from the neck down.

In July of 2013, the patient presented to the defendant endocrinologist, complaining of a lump in her throat. He performed an ultrasound and a biopsy on the patient. The biopsy was reported by the defendant cytopathologist as negative. The endocrinologist was skeptical of the benign finding, yet did not repeat the biopsy to obtain a better sample, nor discuss the results with the cytopathologist. Instead, he simply advised the patient to come back in a few months for a repeat ultrasound.

In May of 2014, the patient was again seen by the endocrinologist, now complaining of difficulty swallowing, hoarseness, shortness of breath, and pain. Another biopsy was performed and a new cytopathologist reviewed the samples; his findings indicated that the samples were suspicious for cancer. He was critical of the evaluation done ten months earlier by the previous cytopathologist, noting that the biopsy samples from the year prior had similar, concerning characteristics which needed follow-up and treatment. The patient was diagnosed with a large, cancerous thyroid tumor which had grown into the wall of her trachea during this 10-month delay in diagnosis. Due to the extent of the tumor growth, an extensive surgery was necessary to be performed at the hospital. Immediately after the surgery, the patient was neurologically intact and could move all of her extremities. She was then admitted to the ICU. Overnight in the ICU, the patient's blood pressure dropped significantly. A chest x-ray revealed that the endotracheal tube that had been inserted during surgery was misplaced and the left lung was collapsing. This finding was not attended to until nine hours later. The patient was put on medication to increase her blood pressure, but it remained low. Hours later, another chest x-ray was performed, which again showed that the endotracheal tube was mal-positioned and the patient now had a complete collapse of the left lung, as well as fluid in the lung. By the end of the day, it was clear that the patient could not move her extremities and that she was permanently paralyzed from the neck down. Imaging studies showed that there was spinal cord damage related to the surgery. For the remaining 34 months of her life, the patient was ventilator-dependent and paralyzed from the neck down. She remained hospitalized and in nursing homes until her ultimate death at age 50. She was aware and conscious until the very end.

During court proceedings, Pegalis Law Group's trial attorney claimed that there was an unreasonable delay in the diagnosis of the patient's underlying cancer, and that by the time she was diagnosed, the surgery—which should have been relatively simple—was extensive. The extent of this complicated surgery and the failure to properly care for this patient, post-surgery in the ICU contributed to the spinal cord stroke. The patient's husband and five daughters were awarded a \$4.25 million settlement.

Pegalis Law Group, LLC is a New York law firm for those suffering as a result of avoidable medical errors and personal injury. In nearly 50 years of practice, we have won some of the largest verdicts in New York State history and strive for medical accountability to ensure safer medical practices for better patient care. Visit us at <https://pegalislawgroup.com> and on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).