

Surgical Errors



The complexities of surgery

Surgical errors and mistakes injure thousands of patients every year, ranging from cases where surgical instruments, sponges and needles are left inside a patient to cases where the wrong operation is performed, the wrong limb amputated or the wrong side of the body operated on. There are also errors in surgical technique in all areas of surgery.

Surgical errors can lead to serious injury or long term disability

Surgical negligence doesn't happen just in the operating theatre. Surgeons can make errors in medical treatment in circumstances where there is a:

- Failure to provide the patient with adequate pre-operative information, (lack of informed consent)
- Failure to perform appropriate pre-operative testing
- Failure to recognise post-operative complications or infections

Errors occurring inside the operating room can include:

- Performing an operation on the wrong part of a patient's body
- Leaving a foreign object inside a patient's body
- Administering the wrong type or dosage of anesthesia
- Neglecting to monitor vital signs such as heart rate or blood pressure
- Causing damage to internal organs during the course of an open, diagnostic or laparoscopic surgery and failing to detect it
- Causing infections through the use of unsterile surgical instruments or practices

Surgical errors do not simply occur during complex operations, such as brain, heart, or spinal cord surgery, errors often occur in the most simple frequently performed operations for example perforation of the bowel during a routine colonoscopy or removal of a polyp.

Some mistakes made by surgeons are negligent and result from a lack of all appropriate skill or care. Sometimes, the mistake is the result of defective medical devices or tools.

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Claiming compensation for surgical errors

Victims of medical negligence are often left suffering continued pain, they may require further medical treatment and are left worrying about the future for both themselves and their families. They may have suffered a loss of earnings and have significant care needs. They may require specialist interventions, therapies and support .

Clinical negligence compensation claims are designed to provide compensation to the victim for the physical and financial effects of their injuries. Damages if awarded will compensate for the injury and financial losses both past and future thereby meeting the costs of additional treatment, ongoing care, therapies and disability support along with any other financial losses. The aim being to put the victim back in the position they would have been but for the defendant's negligence so far as possible.

Support for patients affected by medical negligence related to surgical errors

At Lester Aldridge we are highly experienced in investigating surgical claims and in taking forward successful compensation claims. We have access to a panel of medical experts who are leaders in their field.

We know how devastating a medical mistake can be. No amount of compensation can put things right but it can result in essential provision for the cost of care, to support both you and your loved ones and meet your immediate and ongoing needs. Our experienced specialist lawyers utilise their expertise to maximize any compensation award.

If you have suffered injury, following a mistake made in treatment we can assist with your claim.

If you have concerns or questions, please contact our Personal Injury lawyers. Contact us by emailing: online.enquiries@la-law.com or calling 0344 967 0791.

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