

Article Heading:

Filing a Medical Negligence Claim for Failure to Diagnose a Heart Attack

Keyword-Rich Content:

Your injuries in your medical negligence claim can be difficult to prove. You'll need to demonstrate that the medical professional owed a duty of care to you, and that it was somehow deviated from. As a result of breaching his or her duty of care, you must have also been seriously injured. This is why it's crucial to get legal representation from a [medical negligence lawyer](#).

Grounds for [Medical Negligence Claim](#): Failing to Diagnose a Heart Attack

One of the more common scenarios played out in an emergency room is someone coming in complaining of chest pains. While in some cases it could be indicative of a heart attack, there are other possible causes.

Heart attacks may also be accompanied by other symptoms, so if those aren't present, it could lead a doctor to believe it's something else. One condition that can be difficult to detect is acute cardiac ischemia (ACI). This is a condition in which the heart's muscle isn't receiving enough blood.

Another condition that may be missed is acute myocardial infarction (AMI). A lack of oxygen, oftentimes caused by a blood clot, can injure the heart's muscle. An interruption in the blood flow to the heart can lead to damage. Atherosclerosis and coronary artery spasm can also decrease blood flow to the heart.

Tests may be ordered to determine if the patient is experiencing a heart attack. They may include an echocardiogram, stress test, angiogram, electrocardiogram or others. Failing to order the appropriate tests or misreading results could also be the cause for a heart attack not being diagnosed.

Symptoms of a Heart Attack

The difficulty with heart attacks is that they aren't always very obvious. This can be especially true for older adults, women and those with diabetes.

However some of the symptoms that may indicate a heart attack include:

- chest pain;
- pressure or squeezing in center of chest;
- lightheadedness;
- shortness of breath;
- fainting;
- sweating;

- pain in other parts of the body (back, arm, neck);
- nausea; and
- vomiting.

Symptoms of a heart attack can appear days or even weeks in advance. One of the best indicators of a potential heart attack is when exertion triggers chest pain and goes away with rest.

Anytime a heart attack is suspected, medical professionals must take measures to confirm or rule it out. Otherwise, it could result in the patient experiencing further damage or even death.

Once a heart attack is detected, proper treatment must be administered. A delay or giving the wrong kind of treatment could result in devastating consequences. Treatment may include medication or surgery.