

# Pacific NW Medical Legal Consulting

Physicians Helping Attorneys Helping People™

PNWmedicallegalconsulting.com

253 820-7212

## Newsletter

August 2018

### **This Month's Question:**

[Is There a Relationship Between Trauma and Appendicitis?](#)

### **MD Consulting Services Answer:**

We were recently asked to consult on the following case. The client is a 23 year old woman who was traveling in the far right-hand lane of traffic. A driver in the middle lane made an illegal right hand turn from the middle lane and crossed in front of the client's car. The client's car broad-sided the car making the illegal right-hand turn. The client's air bag did not deploy as it should have. The client was thrown across the steering wheel hitting her head, chest and abdomen.

The client experienced neck and low back pain, however, did not seek out immediate medical care and went home. Approximately six hours after the accident the client began to experience right lower quadrant abdominal pain and went to the ER where she was diagnosed with acute appendicitis. The client was hospitalized and had an appendectomy.

The attorney asked us if the acute appendicitis and the accident were related. There are articles in the medical literature describing acute appendicitis after blunt force trauma to the abdomen including cases caused by auto accidents. It was our opinion that either due to the lap and shoulder restraints, the steering wheel or both the client experienced blunt force trauma to her abdomen during the auto crash. It was our further opinion that due to the blunt force trauma the client developed acute appendicitis. The literature supports the conclusion that blunt force trauma can lead to acute appendicitis. One article states "Our experience with three cases of AA

(acute appendicitis-our addition) following blunt force trauma led to an extensive review of the world literature on the subject. We believe that abdominal trauma might be causative of AA.” There were other medical journal articles supporting our opinion.

The literature describes this phenomenon to be more common in children and young adults. The literature reports the diagnosis of acute appendicitis must be considered following direct abdominal trauma especially if the patient complains of abdominal right lower quadrant pain, nausea and anorexia which were the client’s symptoms.

It was our opinion that there was a direct relationship between the auto accident and the client’s acute appendicitis.

### Let Us Know How We Can Help You

- Medical Summary Reports
- Help with strategies to promote medical theories
- Interpretation of meaning, or lack thereof, of medical reports & records
- Attendance at IME’s
- Reviews of IME Reports
- Independent Record Reviews
- Assessment of case validity regarding medical issues
- Referral to appropriate expert medical witnesses
- Medical Research
- Facilitation of communication with clients, families, professionals and service & governmental agencies
- Case Coordination
- Facilitation of communication with treating doctors
- Table-side deposition assistance or deposition question preparation

As you know, **we have purposefully kept our fees exceptionally low** allowing you the opportunity to have us review your cases early in your representation while controlling your expenses.

CONTACT US for information or fee schedule.

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**P.S. ---Please pass this Newsletter along to your colleagues.**