Messa & Associates
TRIAL ATTORNEYS WITH A REPUTATION FOR RESULTS

We Never Forget that Behind Every Case, are Real People

September is National Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Month

Atrial fibrillation (AF or afib) is an irregular and often rapid heart rate that commonly causes poor blood flow to the body. Common symptoms of atrial fibrillation include heart palpitations, dizziness, shortness of breath and weakness. It is a serious, progressive condition that can lead to stroke, heart failure, and Alzheimer's disease. In some cases, emergency treatment may be necessary. Treatments for atrial fibrillation can include medications and other interventions to try to alter the heart's electrical system.

Afib is a manageable disease, but must be diagnosed and treated by a qualified doctor who understands your needs. Diagnosis of atrial fibrillation may include a number of tests, such as an **electrocardiogram, echocardiogram, blood tests, chest X-ray** or some other type of diagnostic test. Treatment methods will vary depending on your specific condition and medical history. Your physician should assess your situation, and recommend the appropriate course of treatment.

For many patients, atrial fibrillation can increase your risk of stroke or heart failure. Constant monitoring and treatment of atrial fibrillation is important to help reduce these risks. If for any reason, you feel that your physician is failing to properly diagnose or help manage your atrial fibrillation, you should seek the opinion of another physician immediately.

Messa & Associates is experienced at handling cases involving medical malpractice resulting including misdiagnosis or failure to diagnose a heart condition. If you or a loved one has suffered personal injuries as a result of a medical error in failing to diagnose or treat a heart condition, contact the medical malpractice attorneys at 1-877-MessaLaw, or visit us at www.messalaw.com.

St. Jude's Riata Patients Left to Make Difficult Decisions Regarding Potentially Defective Devices

Patients who have defibrillators with defective Riata wires, also called leads, have tough choices to make regarding their health. Heart device specialists say they aren't even sure how to treat patients with defective leads. Leaving the damaged wires in is dangerous, but the removing them poses also poses risks. A defibrillator is implanted by threading the through a blood vessel until it reaches the heart. In time, scar tissue can build up around it, making removal of the leads risky. Instead of immediate removal, the Food and Drug Administration has recommends that patients with the Riata device undergo imaging to see if their lead was failing. However, the agency points out that the issue of defective lead removal is "complex and needs to take into account additional patient circumstances."

The Riata leads are manufactured by St. Jude Medical. The company recalled the faulty wires in December after warning doctors that internal cables were poking through the outer casing, causing unwanted shocks or failing to work when needed. St. Jude now has a newer lead on the market, called Durata, but the safety of that lead has also been questioned. Along with the recommendation of image monitoring of Riata patients, the FDA has also ordered St. Jude to conduct additional studies on the Riata and the Durata.

(Continued)

Parents Beware: Colorful Pods Used for Laundry, Dishwashing May Look Like Candy to Children

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer is urging companies to consider the safety of children who may think colorful, tightly wrapped "pods" of gel laundry and dishwashing detergent is candy. Dozens of reports have been made of children becoming ill after eating the pods. In some cases, children were hospitalized.

The senator has sent a letter to the Consumer Product Safety Commission asking them to require manufacturers of these pods to add both a child-protective lid and a warning label on the detergent. Single-use, gel packages of detergent can be toxic and cause injuries to children including serious swelling and damage to the throat and airway requiring intense medical treatment.

Messa & Associates is experienced in handling cases involving injuries to children. If your child has suffered serious injury as a result of ingesting a detergent pod, please contact us to discuss your case.

We've Expanded!

Messa & Associates, P.C. is excited to announce that our offices have been expanded into a new space adjacent to our Philadelphia location. The additional office space will allow us to better serve our clients as we continue to grow.

Our Philadelphia office address will remain 123 S. 22nd Street.

Messa & Associates is Giving Eagles Tickets to One Lucky Winner!

To enter the contest, just like the Messa & Associates Facebook page anytime between now and October 12th. You'll be entered in a drawing to win two tickets to an Eagles game.

It's that easy!

Consumer News: *The Recall Report*

450,000 Window Blinds Recalled

Blinds Xpress has issued a recall for an estimated 139,000 vertical and 315,000 horizontal custom blinds that do not have cord-safety features. The blinds were sold between January 1995 and December 2011.

A 2-year-old girl died in 2009 after being strangled by a vertical-blinds cord manufactured by the company. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, about one baby is strangled by a window-treatment cord each month. A safety device on blinds cords is not mandatory although consumer advocate groups have been fighting to get a safety standard put into effect. CPSC recommends consumers with the window treatments that do not have a safety device on the cords stop using them, especially those with small children.

Messa & Associates has handled dozens of cases involving injuries and death related to the use of defective products. If you or a loved one has suffered serious injury as a result a recalled product, please contact us at 1-877-MessaLaw or visit us at www.messalaw.com.

Riata Devices Defect (continued)

Consumer advocates have criticized St. Jude and the FDA for inadequately testing medical devices before approval to be put on the market and for poor procedures for identifying problems with devices once they are on the market.

For more information about a case involving a defective medical device, contact us at 1-877-MessaLaw, or visit us at www.messalaw.com.

Recent Settlements and Verdicts

Confidential

$3.5 Million settlement in Philadelphia County for the family of 58-year-old father who underwent surgery to repair a thoracic aneurysm.

Following surgery, the man suffered a blockage in his intestine which went undiagnosed and was left untreated. The man experienced symptoms of a blockage for several days after his surgery, including continued vomiting. The man eventually aspirated and died.

"We know you want and *deserve* the best when it comes to representation.
At Messa & Associates, It's Always Been About Our Clients."

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For more information, please call 877-MessaLaw or email GHightower@MessaLaw.com