Hospital Errors in America

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The Issue: Everybody makes mistakes. But when they happen in a hospital, it’s fatal.
Emily Jerry was a two year old girl who tragically passed away due to hospital error.

Emily had a cancerous yolk-sac tumor the size of a grapefruit in her abdomen. Many surgeries and months of chemotherapy completely eliminated the tumor. After making an incredible recovery, an overdose of sodium chloride during her last round of chemotherapy caused her to die just a couple days after her second birthday.
Statistics of Errors

- 12,000 die from unnecessary surgery
- 7,000 die from medication errors
- 20,000 die from errors in hospitals
- 80,000 die from hospital-acquired infections
- 106,000 die from negative side effects of drugs taken as prescribed
- 40 times a week nationwide, wrong-site surgery occurs
Controversies

22% of medical mistakes end up in medical malpractice lawsuits. So is it really necessary for doctors to pay for medical malpractice insurance?

Should patients be reimbursed for medical errors?

Whose fault is it?
Past Solutions

Advanced Trauma Life Support=standard for trauma care in U.S. emergency departments developed to prevent mistreatment of patients

Patients’ carbon dioxide levels are measured to prevent intubating in the esophagus

Fetal heart rate monitoring to detect fetal distress

Postoperative sponge and instrument counts to make sure nothing is left behind

Medical questionnaires to prevent allergic reactions

Moving the patient regularly to prevent ulcers
Solutions

Inform your doctor of any existing allergies or symptoms.

Do tests multiple times to ensure the results are correct.

Confirm that your pharmacist has given you the correct medication.

Make sure that you can read all labels posted on medication bottles.

Make sure your health records are constantly updated.

When being discharged from hospitals, ask your doctor to explain the treatment plan to you.

Ask questions/express your concerns.
Personal Opinions

If a doctor is to make a mistake during a medical procedure, all costs should be taken care of by the hospital/government.

Doctors should go to greater lengths to insure that they are performing the correct procedures and giving correct doses.

They should focus on it more in Med School.
Questions

What do you think doctors should do to compensate for their errors?

What is one thing a patient can do to prevent errors in their care?

What is one thing a doctor can do to prevent errors?

What percent of medical mistakes end up in medical malpractice lawsuits?

Why is it important for doctors/nurses to double check that they're giving the correct doses of medication?
Bibliography


http://scribeamerica.com/blog/medical-errors-causes-solutions/