

OAKLAND COUNTY/STATE

Woman sues, claims doctor botched surgery

By STEPHEN FRYE

The Oakland Press

A 35-year-old Troy woman has sued William Beaumont Hospital, seeking \$10 million in damages, alleging that her minor surgery was botched and then not treated properly, leading to an infection of flesh-eating bacteria that nearly killed her.

Robin Lakin, formerly Robin Thompson, has sued the hospital, her doctor and two medical centers after what her lawyer said was supposed to be a routine outpatient surgery turned into a two-week life-

threatening ordeal.

Hospital officials said they could not comment on the lawsuit.

On Sept. 8, 2004, Lakin had her right ovary removed at the hospital's Troy location without having to undergo a major operation.

But attorney Albert Dib alleges that Dr. Sang Curtis Lee accidentally nicked her colon, causing a 2-inch cut. With Lakin feeling ill, her release that afternoon was delayed, the suit said.

If the nursing staff and physician's assistant had realized the extent of her trouble, then

doctors could have immediately repaired the damage without any significant repercussions, the suit alleges.

"The doctor wasn't checking in on her. All she wanted was a Beaumont doctor," Dib said, referring to the hospital's advertising campaign. "The doctor wasn't checking in on her."

Dib said that after the surgery, which was followed with two weeks in an induced coma, she lost her job as a nursing assistant. Subsequently, the strain led to her marriage ending, Dib said.

Hene Wolff, spokeswoman

for William Beaumont Hospital, said she could not comment on a pending suit.

"We're aware that the attorney intended to file the lawsuit," Wolff said. "Our legal department has not had an opportunity to review the complaint. We don't talk about pending litigation."

With nothing done on the following day, Dib alleges, Lakin's condition worsened.

"This was the beginning of a catastrophe," Dib wrote in the suit, describing a faltering medical condition highlighted by a dropping blood pressure as the infection set in. "Yet she

was not taken to surgery until the next day in the afternoon."

By the morning of Sept. 10, Dib wrote, "Ms. Lakin was starting to die at this point."

During surgery that afternoon, doctors found the 2-inch cut in the colon, Dib said. After she went into septic shock, a "necrotizing soft tissue infection" developed in her abdomen, the suit claims.

Dib said doctors checking Lakin out on Sept. 10 opened her up to find fecal matter and a foul smell.

"All of her waste products, instead of being expelled out of her body, they were expelled

into her chest and abdominal cavity," Dib said. Then, the flesh-eating disease "unleashed itself in a rather dramatic fashion in her torso."

Dib said an additional claim will be made against the physician's assistant when a state-mandated waiting period after announcing an intention to sue has passed.

The suit is assigned to Oakland County Circuit Judge Denise Langford-Morris, and court dates will be set several weeks from now after the hospital responds to the allegations.

POLICE BLOTTER

... who came to the door Tuesday