

Inland Valley
Daily Bulletin
October 17, 2003

Jury awards family \$4 million
Woman died after obesity surgery
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PASADENA — A jury awarded \$4.3 million to the family of a 39-year-old woman who died after a surgical obesity treatment at a Pasadena hospital.

Tracy Mayes went into Huntington Memorial Hospital on Dec. 11, 2000, for gastric bypass surgery. She died on Feb. 12, 2001, after going into septic shock from a leak near the bypass.

Wednesday, jurors found Mayes' radiologist, Dr. David Bryan, and his group, Hill Medical Corp., negligent in her death.

When Mayes began experiencing complications after the surgery, Bryan misdiagnosed the problem, said Bruce G. Fagel, the family's attorney. By the time the error was discovered, she had already gone into shock, he said.

"The jury did not buy his defense that what he did played no role in the patient's ultimate death," Fagel said.

Mayes' surgeon, a specialist and the hospital were originally listed as defendants in the case, but only the case against Bryan was submitted to the jury.

A spokesman for Hill Medical said the company had no comment.