

Jury awards millions to parents who sued Oak Lawn hospital

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A Cook County jury has sided against Oak Lawn's Christ Medical Center and Hope Children's Hospital in awarding \$22.3 million to the parents of a boy who blamed the loss of his left leg on negligent care.

The jury decided the case Monday, after a three-week trial and more than 10 years since Jake Tinman's birth in the hospital on May 15, 1999, the plaintiff's attorneys said in a news release Tuesday.

Jake, now 10, was born with a congenital heart defect requiring a shunt procedure, the Romanucci and Blandin law firm said in the release.

The baby was sent home with parents Pamela and Michael Tinman to their Bolingbrook home. Two weeks later, the couple returned to the hospital's emergency room, a visit the Tinmans alleged was wrought with delays and negligent care that led to his

injuries, the firm said.

The jury agreed with the family's assertions that the hospital failed to make a timely diagnosis of Jake's shunt problem, improperly subjected him to an unnecessary cardiac catheterization, improperly applied a pressure dressing to Jake's left leg and also failed to remove it in a timely fashion, failed to monitor his pulse and improperly destroyed an echocardiogram, the firm said.

A spokesman for the hospital declined to comment on the case or whether the hospital is considering an appeal of the jury's award.

"Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the (Tinman) family and their ongoing navigation of a difficult health journey," spokesman Mike Maggio said. "While we are not able to comment on specific issues of the case due to ongoing litigation we continue our commitment to saving lives and providing excellent compassionate care."

The lawsuit was filed by the parents in 2002.