



# NEW YORK POST

LATE CITY FINAL

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1993 / Sunny today, mid-50s; cloudy tonight, 40s / Details, Page 18 \*\*

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## Jury hands \$3.9M to kin of mom who died in hosp

By NEIL GRAVES

The family of a woman who died at a Brooklyn hospital after being treated by a medical student and undergoing an unnecessary hysterectomy was awarded \$3.9 million yesterday.

Gloria Garcia, a mother of two, died from massive brain damage just days after the 1984 operation at Coney Island Hospital.

An all-woman jury in Brooklyn Supreme Court took just two hours to find the city Health and Hospitals Corp. and two doctors liable.

The woman's husband, Teodoro Garcia, said he was pleased with the verdict — but will never forget the horror of what happened to his wife.

"You go to the hospital and see your wife in a coma and it's terrible," Garcia said. "I was very upset." The couple had two children, Teodoro Jr., now 23, and Liz, now 22.

HHC said it would appeal.

"We believe the verdict was inappropriate," said HHC lawyer John Sullivan.

According to testimony at the trial, Gloria Garcia, 42, was admitted to the hospital after gynecologist Dr. Needianun Khulpateea told her she had to have fibroids removed from her uterus.

Dr. Rahmo Hanone, the hospital's supervising anesthesiologist, allowed a medical student with no training to perform the anesthesia, said Judith Livingston, Garcia's lawyer.

The unidentified student inserted the oxygen tube into the patient's stomach instead of her lungs, Livingston said.

"It wasn't until the woman turned blue and her heart rate plummeted that anyone in the operating room realized she was suffering because of oxygen deprivation," Livingston said.