

# Chicago Lawyer®

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## > Big Verdicts and Settlements

A woman who was injured during laparoscopic surgery to remove an ovarian cyst was awarded \$1.8 million by a federal judge following a court trial.

Rosemary Bombela-Tobias underwent laparoscopic surgery for removal of a left ovarian cyst in 2002 at Alivia Medical Center. During the procedure her iliac artery was lacerated and she nearly bled to death.

She required a complex abdominal closure, several subsequent surgeries, and a two-year recovery period during which she was unable to work. For much of her recovery period she had an open abdominal wound.

Injury to the common iliac artery is not a known complication of a laparoscopic surgery to remove an ovarian cyst. Perforation of the left common artery was caused by the improper location of surgical equipment by the treating surgeons.

Bombela-Tobias was represented by Barry Chafetz of **Corboy & Demetrio**. The hospital, which is a federally funded community health center, and the physicians were represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Patrick W. Johnson and Eileen M. Marutzky.