

The Ledger | TIMEOUT | Polk Voice | The Reporter | Vision Latina | Business Journal



NEWS | SPORTS | BUSINESS | LIFE | ENTERTAINMENT | COMMUNITY | OPINIONS / FORUMS | LEDGER SERVICES | SHOPPING | CL

AUTOS

Local | State | U.S. | World | Obituaries | Elections | East Polk | Four Corners | Education | Crime & Justice | New York Times | Photos | Multin



Home » News » Local

Published: Thursday, October 4, 2007

Two Lakeland Doctors Face State Discipline

Physicians agree to proposed penalties in medication-error cases.

By **Robin Williams Adams**
The Ledger

LAKELAND | Two Lakeland doctors accused of medication errors go before the Florida Board of Medicine on Friday in an effort to resolve complaints against them.

A patient died in each situation, but the circumstances vary greatly.

The proposed penalties would be similar - reprimands and additional training and fines, with a drug course for one of them.

The Florida Department of Health and the doctors, without admitting guilt, agreed to the proposed settlements. It's up to the board to decide whether the proposed discipline is acceptable.

The state's accusations involve treatments by Dr. Charles Dack and Dr. Anthony Jean-Jacques.

Dack, a psychiatrist, treated a woman for seven years for depression and back pain after an injury.

Before her death, she was on 1,300 milligrams of morphine a day and on 300 milligrams a day of Elavil, an antidepressant that also can be used to treat chronic pain. Dack also prescribed other antidepressants and didn't require her to seek pain-management treatment, according to the Department of Health complaint.

She was found dead March 13, 2002. The cause of death was listed as "multiple drug intoxication, namely opiates and tricyclic antidepressants," the complaint said.

The state said Dack inappropriately escalated the quantity and dosage of her prescribed narcotics

SEARCH POLK

All

[Enlarge Text](#)

[Print](#)

[EMail](#)

[Discuss \(\)](#)

[Share](#)

[MULTIMEDIA](#)

keeping her at a toxic level of morphine for more than two years; failed to get blood tests to measure the impact of one type of drug; and failed to recognize her dependence on and tolerance for controlled substances.

Dack said he didn't want to comment before the board hearing in Orlando.

Jean-Jacques treated a 24-year-old woman who developed problems, including infection, after her gall bladder was removed in February 2004. Two months later, after another surgery, the state contends he switched her to an antibiotic he should have known wouldn't be effective enough.

The complaint also said Jean-Jacques, a surgeon, didn't consult an infectious disease specialist in making the change.

Jean-Jacques said the accusation against him resulted from miscommunication and lack of the antibiotic he wanted to put his patient on.

She was on the right IV antibiotic, he said, but she was ready to be discharged. The drug he wanted to give her to take by mouth wasn't available, he said, so he gave instructions for the pharmacist to give her something equivalent.

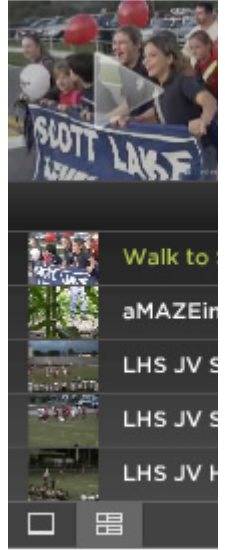
"It was miscommunication," he said. "Since I am the surgeon, I am responsible for what happens to the patient."

Jean-Jacques surgically explored her abdomen the next day. He prescribed an intravenous antibiotic April 19. Two days later, he ordered the change to the other antibiotic.

She died May 7, 2004, of acute peritonitis and sepsis, according to the state.

[Robin Williams Adams can be reached at robin.adams@theledger.com or 863-802-7558. Read her blog at robinsrx.theledger.com.]

Last modified: October 04, 2007 12:00AM



SNAPSHOTS



USF vs. West Virginia



Bucs vs. Rams

RECENT FORUM POS

- Man Gets 30 Years In
- State Attorney Won't
- Bartow Zoning Protes
- Emergency Room Pro (5) - tatertot1
- Football Fan Gets Pris a Game (8) - MajorBr
- Southwest Middle Sch
- Man Arrested for Higl
- Boy, 13, Charged in S ghostinmarble

Liberated From Threa

Jimmy Carter Faces L
PLACE

[Home Delivery](#) | [Photo Reprint](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Submit an Ad](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Jobs](#) | [About The Ledger](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Member Agreement](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Missed a day's news?

Other New York Times Regional Media Group Florida sites:
[Gainesville Sun](#) | [Ocala Star Banner](#) | [Sarasota Herald Tribune](#)
© 2007 The Ledger. All Rights Reserved.