

## **Malpractice in cardiac care: Minimizing risk**

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A healthy 32-year-old woman is brought to your ED after a brief syncopal episode. Her exam is normal, her lab values are unremarkable, and her EKG shows a right bundle branch block, which you feel is a normal variant. She's discharged and instructed to follow up with her primary care doc.

Only she dies first. And you get sued for not recognizing Brugada syndrome. Huh? Never heard of it? The plaintiff's lawyer has...

With an emphasis on medical-legal case histories, this talk will help us recognize both common as well as uncommon pitfalls in our evaluation and treatment of cardiac patients. We will discuss important aspects of the history, exam, EKG, treatment, documentation—and what to do when things go wrong. We all have plenty of experience dealing with cardiac patients every day, yet despite our expertise, these folks still constitute a major medical-legal risk to us. Why is this?

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