

Woman files suit against Ben Taub

Daughter died after
'anesthesia mishap'

By **JOHN MECKLIN**
Post Reporter

The mother of a woman who died in 1982 after surgery at Ben Taub Hospital filed suit Wednesday against the hospital, Baylor College of Medicine and seven doctors, alleging that poor supervision and training of residents who administered anesthesia were factors in her daughter's death.

The suit, filed by Nathan Mae Richards on behalf of her daughter Pamela and Pamela's three children, seeks more than \$1 million in damages, said Richard Mithoff, attorney for Nathan Richards.

Mithoff said he could not detail most of the

allegations surrounding Pamela Richards' death at this time. But he did say, "It certainly appears to be one of a series of anesthesia mishaps at Ben Taub."

Baylor College of Medicine and Ben Taub spokesmen declined comment on the case.

Pamela Richards was taken to the Ben Taub emergency room late on July 20, and was placed under anesthesia for an operation on what was diagnosed as a tubal pregnancy, Mithoff said.

She subsequently went into a coma and died about a week later, Mithoff said.

The attorney said he intends to show that an oxygen tube was improperly placed during the process of administering anesthesia. The suit alleges that Baylor College of Medicine improperly supervises and trains residents in the administration of anesthetics.

The allegations follow several news reports on an alleged series of "anesthesia mishaps" at Ben Taub.

In January, Olufunso Ogunbase accused Baylor medical school officials of conspiring to refuse him a diploma after he had completed a resident training program in anesthesia administration. Ogunbase filed an \$18 million lawsuit claiming he was denied a diploma because he had revealed information on 19 deaths allegedly connected to anesthesia mishaps.

Baylor officials have called Ogunbase's allegations "preposterous."