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Family settles its suit on man's brain damage

By RUTH PILLER
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The family of a former Harris County assistant district attorney has reached a multimillion-dollar settlement with the hospital whose treatment reportedly left the man severely brain damaged.

Bill Camp went to West Houston Medical Center on June 13, 1989, for a barium enema. When he became dizzy, he was given lidocaine — a drug used, typically, either as a local anesthetic or to treat heart arrhythmias.

Camp then went into seizures and suffered irreversible brain damage, said attorney Richard Mithoff, who represented the Camp family in the lawsuit. The family contends the wrong drug was administered.

Now 42, Camp functions like a small child and cannot be left alone,

Mithoff said. The suit was settled Wednesday in Probate Judge Pat Gregory's court, on the second day of jury selection.

Camp's wife, Susie, who filed the lawsuit on behalf of her husband and their 13-year-old daughter, asked for \$50 million in damages. Pointing out that terms of the agreement prohibit the disclosure of the settlement amount, Mithoff said the money will provide for the care of Camp and his family for the rest of their lives.

Camp lives with his wife and daughter but requires 24-hour nursing care, Mithoff said.

At the time of his injury, Camp had been in a private, general law practice for two years. Before that, he spent 14 years as an assistant district attorney and headed the office's check-fraud division.

"He was a nice guy, a hard worker," said District Attorney John B. Holmes Jr. "He did a good job here."

The hospital employees who administered the anesthetic are still employed by the hospital, Mithoff said. The suit also named Memorial Radiology Group as a defendant.

The hospital's attorney did not return calls from the Chronicle.



Camp