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## Jury awards \$1.05 million in malpractice case

**SUN STAFF**

**ALLISON KLEIN**

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A Baltimore Circuit Court jury found yesterday that two emergency room doctors at Union Memorial Hospital committed malpractice that led to the death of a Baltimore man and must pay \$1.05 million in damages to his family.

After listening to two weeks of testimony and then deliberating for two hours, the jury decided Dr. Drory Tendler and Dr. Christopher Price should have diagnosed a blood clot in the lungs of Christian J. Walch, 76. Instead, they told him he had pneumonia when he visited the emergency room in December 1999. He died weeks later.

Andrew G. **Slutkin**, the lawyer for Walch's estate and four children, said the doctors should have diagnosed Walch's blood clot, which was discovered during an autopsy, because it is a common condition after surgery.

Walch had surgery on his bowel days before pain sent him to the emergency room.

Price is an internist at Union Memorial, while Tendler stopped working for the hospital more than a year ago, according to hospital spokeswoman Jenny Hodgins.

Price's lawyer, Kristin L. Kremer, declined to comment on the case.

Tendler's lawyer, Michele Smith, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Walch, a native of France, was co-founder of Walch & Wolterek Inc. travel agency, which became known for its customized safaris, chartered cruises and chauffeured tours to some of the world's most remote destinations.

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