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## **Lawsuit Alleges Fredericksburg Surgeon Operated On Wrong Side of Shoulder After He “Forgot” Which Side He Was to Operate on**

A medical malpractice lawsuit filed in the Circuit Court for the City of Fredericksburg alleges that a local orthopedic surgeon admitted to his patient that he forgot which part of her shoulder he was supposed to operate on but went ahead with the surgery anyway, removing healthy tissue and causing unnecessary disfigurement to a patient.

The patient, Lexie Fincher, alleges that orthopedic surgeon Michael H. Snedden, M.D. admitted to her that once the surgery to remove a cyst on the back of her shoulder began, he forgot whether the cyst was located on the front or back of her shoulder but thought that the cyst would be “easy to find” once the surgery started. She alleges that Snedden failed to take “standard steps” prior to surgery that would have included discussing the surgery with her on the morning of surgery and marking the area with a felt pen. In an unusual twist, the lawsuit also alleges that Snedden, who had plans to leave town two days after the surgery, was himself suffering from “acute flank pain” at the time he operated on Fincher and suspected that he was suffering from an attack of gallstones during the surgery on Fincher.

“Dr. Snedden was shocked the next day when I showed him his error and he realized that he removed healthy tissue and that I would need further surgery,” said Fincher. “I wish he had woken me up and asked me where the cyst was once he realized that he had forgotten where it was he was supposed to operate. Perhaps he was distracted by his own pain and travel plans,” she added.

Fincher’s attorney, Benjamin W. Glass III, a medical malpractice lawyer in Fairfax, Virginia, says “We were shocked that Dr. Snedden’s insurance company said he didn’t do anything wrong, even though he did the right thing and admitted his error in his medical records and apologized.”

To schedule an interview with Attorney Benjamin Glass, call 703-591-9829. The lawsuit is available. The case is Fincher v. Snedden, M.D., Cir. Court for City of Fredericksburg, Case No. CL10-26.