



Anapol Schwartz

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



GADOLINIUM PSC

NEPHROGENIC SYSTEMIC FIBROSIS

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Barry Hill adds his mass tort reputation to Anapol Schwartz's well established national mass tort practice. Hill's more than 30 years of civil litigation experience also includes financial fraud and other complex litigation. He has handled a range of noteworthy consumer cases for the Attorney General for West Virginia.



NEPHROGENIC SYSTEMIC FIBROSIS

Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis, also known as Nephrogenic Fibrosing Dermopathy and referred to as NSF, is predominantly characterized by discoloration, thickening, tightening, and swelling of the skin.

A growing body of published scientific literature identifies gadolinium used in contrast solutions used in enhanced MRI and MRA as the cause of NSF. In those who will develop NSF, symptoms can begin days-to-months after injection of contrast solution containing gadolinium. Published literature puts the reported time period for symptoms to appear from as short as two days to as long as 18 months.

Fibrotic and edematous changes caused by NSF produce muscular weakness and inhibit flexion and extension of joints, resulting in contractures. NSF can progress to the point where a person effectively loses use of arms, legs, hands, and/or feet. NSF Skin changes frequently begin as darkened patches or plaques and progress to a “woody” texture and are accompanied by burning, itching, and/or severe pain in the areas of involvement.

NSF can cause fibrosis and scarring of lungs, heart, liver, and muscles and can be fatal. It is a progressive disease with no known cure and no consistently effective treatment.

The symptoms of NSF were observed and discussed in scientific literature years before the condition was given a name or the cause was understood. The NSF and/or NFD terminology has been used for about ten years. Before that, the condition was referred to as scleromyxedema, scleroderma, or some other connective tissue disease.

Almost all NSF cases reported thus far involved people whose kidney function was compromised at the time of injection with gadolinium-containing contrast solution. However, there are some cases where the person had no apparent kidney failure at the time of injection with contrast. NSF is not known to have existed until gadolinium-containing contrast solutions came into use for enhancing MRI and MRA scans.