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Settlement is made in death of baby boy

Couple reaches agreement with physician and
Doctors Regional over transfer of ailing baby

Staff reports

Dr. Navnitrai Dave and Doctors Regional Medical Center have reached an agreement with a couple who blamed Dave and the hospital for the death of the couple's 5-day-old son.

Robert and Martha Caldera alleged that their son, Matteo, died because he was not given proper care. The couple believed that Matteo, who died in August 1999 from low blood oxygen levels, would have survived if Matteo had been transferred sooner from Doctors Regional to Driscoll Children's Hospital.

Terms of the agreement, reached Jan. 25, are confidential.

"The family is happy with the settlement and feel they have been vindicated," said Jack Modesett, the attorney who represented the family.

A trial in the case got under way

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last week. The settlement came the day after testimony from Dr. Peter Serrao, former director of the neonatal nursery at Doctors Regional. Serrao testified that the nursery staff lacked experience in caring for severely ill newborns and questioned the staff's ability to use the high tech equipment needed to stabilize newborns like Matteo.

Dave's attorney, Andy Lehrman, and the attorney for Doctors Regional, John Scully of Dallas, both said they were pleased with the settlement.