

Surgeons left 15in medical clamps inside patient's stomach which 'cut him to ribbons'

By ALLAN HALL - [More by this author »](#) Last updated at 17:39pm on 1st April 2008

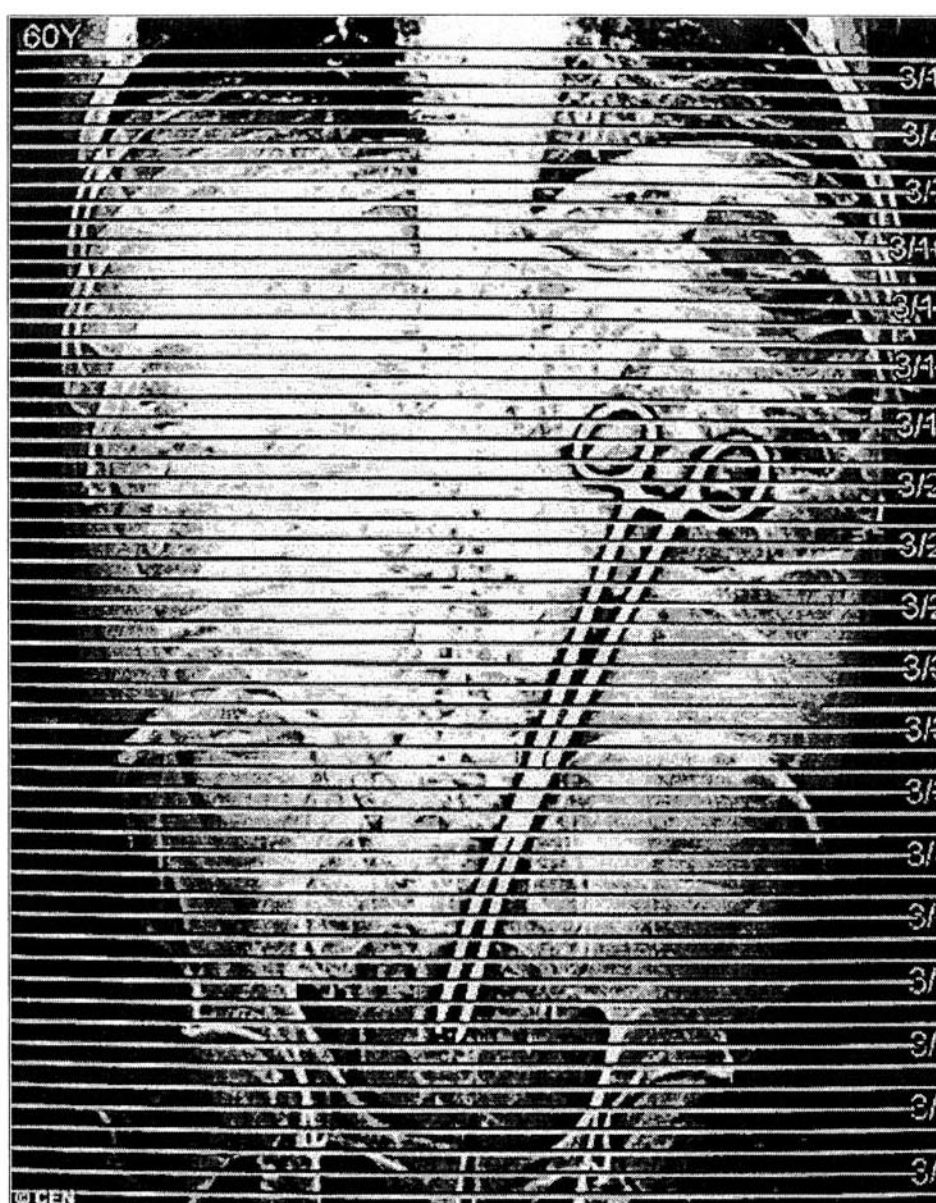
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A German man who endured excruciating pain following a routine procedure to clear a blocked intestine later discovered operating room medics left a 15 inch pair of surgical clamps inside him.

The clamps "rattled and shook like a chain saw, mincing his insides to pieces," said Norbert Pohl's lawyer who is now pursuing a £100,000 claim for damages on his behalf.

Medical malpractice specialist Dr Dirk Christoph Ciper said the blunder was not detected for weeks following the operation on commercial salesman Mr Pohl, 61, in the spring of 2007.

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Trapped: An X-Ray showing the 15in surgical clamp left inside Norbert Pohl's stomach

He claims an X-Ray doctors took to see what was causing him such chronic post-op pain revealed the clamps embedded in the wall of his abdomen.

"But he had to endure another four operations following the one to remove the clamps before the hospital admitted to him what had happened," said Dr Ciper.

"And following that he had to have another two operations. All these were to repair the massive damage that had been done to him."

His lawyer added: "It is truly a miracle that he is still alive. We say it is negligence of the grossest kind on behalf of the hospital."

He launched the lawsuit on behalf of Mr Pohl last month.

Mr Pohl suffered numerous cuts and internal bleeding for months after going into the hospital in Germany for what was supposed to be the routine operation at the Catholic Clinical Centre in Duisburg.

For weeks following the procedure he suffered vomiting and nausea.

He said he underwent X-Rays and scans which showed up the colossal error "but nothing was said to me, probably because they sought a way out of their blunder.

"I underwent operaton after operation without apparent success because I was still in pain. It was only after the fifth procedure that they told me about the clamps.

"I have to wear a surgical corset now incase my insides literally fall out because my abdomen wall has collapsed."

"The suffering of this man was enormous," added Dr Ciper.

A payment of £10,000 from the hospital so far has been dismissed by him as "paltry."

The hospital refused to comment.