

The Miami Herald

Man brain-damaged at hospital awarded \$2 million settlement

By MARY VOBORIL
Herald Staff Writer

A former Dade man may never know it, but he became a millionaire this month with a lump-sum settlement award of \$2.1 million to compensate for brain damage he suffered at North Miami General Hospital.

An attorney for Anthony Drewry, now 20, claimed the man suffered irreversible brain damage when a nurse forgot to activate tracheotomy equipment.

Drewry was deprived of oxygen for several minutes. He had been in North Miami General Hospital recovering from a severe concussion suffered in an automobile accident when the incident occurred.

His limbs now are stiff and spastic, and he is only beginning to learn to communicate, said his attorney, Alan Goldfarb.

"This was such a tragedy to this boy," said Goldfarb. "In my mind, and from what I've seen, I think he would have made a good recovery from the first injury. His life now is virtually destroyed because of someone else's carelessness.

"It's a lot of money, but it means nothing to the family in comparison with the terrible disaster that has befallen them."

Miles McGrane, an attorney for the hospital, could not be reached for comment.

The hospital paid \$100,000. \$2,010,000 was paid out of the Florida Patient's Compensation Fund. The second installment was paid Feb. 4.

Goldfarb declined to discuss his fee but said the case was handled in "the usual contingency fashion." Typically, 33 to 40 per cent of the award goes to the attorney