



Eye Doctor To Pay \$900,000 in Suit Over Blindness After Sty Removal

Lukiw v. Kern: An ophthalmologist reached a \$900,000 settlement on July 24 with a patient who became blind in an eye during a sty removal operation.

To perform the procedure in April 2004, Dr. Arthur Kern, of Millburn, injected anesthetic into the left eyelid of Roman Lukiw, now 22, of Westfield. When it was over,

Lukiw discovered he was blind in that eye, according to a suit filed in Essex County by **David Mazie** of Roseland's **Nagel Rice & Mazie**.

The anesthetic went into a blood vessel in the eyelid and traveled to the eyeball, where it did the damage that caused the blindness, the suit said.

Defense counsel **Louis Ruprecht** of Millburn's **Ruprecht, Hart & Weeks** did not return calls last week. Mazie says a defense expert report said the doctor followed correct procedures and that the patient was a victim of a freak accident that could not be explained.

— By Henry Gottlieb