



Spotlight On Justice



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SOME RANDOM DOCTOR

into fits of laughter. One patient boasted to me that his doctor was the best because he had operated on a U.S. president. Another patient, a prominent accountant in my community, told me how much trouble he went through to get a surgeon who had operated on President Reagan. "If he was good enough for Reagan, he's good enough for me," he told me.

I didn't mention to him that most surgeons in D.C. knew President Reagan suffered from central-line complications caused by a line that was improperly put under his clavicle. Central IV lines should never be placed under the clavicle during a chest trauma: Every surgeon knows that as a routine standard of care. Then, amid concerns over a possible complication of accidental puncture, the president was subjected to open-lung surgery to ensure that the bleeding stopped. Many surgeons in D.C. who know the true story believe that Reagan may not have needed his surgery.

Makary, Marty, *Unaccountable: What Hospitals Won't Tell You and How Transparency Can Revolutionize Health Care*, 2012 (chapter on Reagan assassination attempt).

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE: EVEN PRESIDENTS ARE AT RISK

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