Las Vegas Doctor Gets Life in Prison for 2007 Hep C Outbreak

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Former Las Vegas endoscopy clinic owner Dipak Desai has been sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole after 18 years, ABC News reports. His sentence follows criminal convictions against him for a 2007 hepatitis C virus (HCV) outbreak, one of the largest in U.S. history. The former state medical board member was found guilty earlier this year of 27 criminal charges, including second-degree murder in the case of his client Rodolfo Meana, who died of complications from the liver disease. After notifying 63,000 former clinic patients to get tested for the virus, investigators from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have confirmed that at least nine people contracted hep C at one of his clinics and two died. Officials also estimated that an additional 105 former patients with hep C might have been related. According to prosecutors, the outbreak resulted from unsafe clinic and injection practices that emphasized profits over patient safety.

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