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Family files suit against DaVita, drug maker

By JESSICA COOLEY
Staff writer

The family of a Jasper man who allegedly died after being given contaminated blood thinner in a Lufkin dialysis center has filed a lawsuit against the drug's maker and the treatment facility.

According to the lawsuit filed Dec. 30, 2009, Lloyd James Robinson was given Heparin during treatment at DaVita Dialysis center. After a month of treatments, he had an adverse reaction to the medication and died in January 2008, according to the lawsuit. Alleging that the facilities in China where the drug was manufactured

did not meet U.S. regulations, a product liability lawsuit was filed in Beaumont.

The family is seeking damages for medical and hospital expenses, loss of income, physical and mental pain and suffering, loss of enjoyment of life, funeral and burial expenses, pecuniary losses, loss of advice and counsel, loss of services, loss of inheritance and loss of companionship and society.

DaVita is disputing the lawsuit's claim. "Tainted Heparin was not administered at the facility," said Brad Chase, director of communications for DaVita.

The family's attorney, David Van Susteren, of Houston, said DaVita not receiv-

ing contaminated Heparin has yet to be proven. He continued by saying there are currently many cases pending against the drug's maker. Van Susteren's partner, Veronica Foley, is also representing the family.

"Mr. Lloyd Robinson was a husband, decorated war hero receiving a Congressional Medal of Honor for valor and a father," Van Susteren said. "He shouldn't have been killed in this manner."

The family is hoping that the case will go before a jury. The time frame for when the case could go to court is unclear for now, Van Susteren said.

"There's a lot of investigating to be

done. It could take as long as 18 months," he said.

The trial will likely be heard in a Beaumont Federal Court room, Van Susteren said,

DaVita made the news last year, as nurse Kimberly Saenz was indicted with five counts of capital murder for allegedly killing five patients by injecting them with bleach.

Robinson was a patient during the time Saenz worked at Davita, Van Susteren noted.

Chase said the two are unrelated.

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