

At Least 23 Total Colorado "Dry-Needling" Injuries as of March 28th 2018:

6 Dry Needling Injury Complaints have been filed with DORA:

1. On or about October 18, 2012, Dr. Walford, DC, PT undertook to provide acupuncture-related (i.e., dry needling) treatment for Franci Greenberg. Upon information and belief, Dr. Walford was negligent in that he repeatedly placed needles directly in improper areas, and failed to recognize that he was causing harm and severe worsening of Ms. Greenberg's condition. Dr. Walford negligently failed to document the worsening and exacerbation of Ms. Walford's condition and negligently failed to appropriately document the treatments performed. As a result or consequence of the treatments performed by Dr. Walford, Ms. Greenberg's condition has become severe, and she is in effect incapacitated and has very little quality of life. The negligence of the Defendant has resulted in substantial harm and damage to Plaintiff Ms. Greenberg. Upon information and belief, as a direct and proximate result of the negligence referenced herein above, Ms. Greenberg has probably suffered permanent and irreversible harm, damage and injury, including permanent exacerbation of her condition and extensive physical and mental pain and suffering. Ms. Greenberg has been caused, and in the future will continue to be caused, permanent physical disfigurement, physical impairment, physical and mental pain and suffering, mental anguish, severe emotional distress, humiliation, loss of enjoyment of life, medical, therapeutic and related health care expensed, life care expenses, loss of earnings and/or loss of earning capacity, medical, nursing, rehabilitative and other damages and injuries.
2. In Colorado in November 2013, 17-year-old professional freeskiier Torin Yater-Wallace suffered a penetrating right lung injury caused by a physical therapist performing dry needling. The injury resulted in a traumatic pneumothorax (a collapsed lung). He was treated for the traumatic pneumothorax at the emergency department of the St. Anthony Summit Medical Center in Frisco, Colorado, and was admitted to that hospital on the same day. The traumatic pneumothorax required medical and surgical intervention. He was hospitalized for five days.
3. On April 30, 2015, Amanda Hilton went to her physical therapist in Boulder, Colorado for a back "left-shoulder-blade issue." Her left lung was punctured by the physical therapist. After experiencing pain and vomiting, she went to the emergency room at Good Samaritan hospital. Multiple tests were conducted and imaging scans showed a collapsed left lung. She required surgery and three days of hospitalization, plus four days of bed rest. She lost five days of work and had to cancel a trip to Hawaii among other birthday plans. Doctors at the hospital confirmed that the punctured lung was due to "dry needling." Her physical therapist denied any responsibility for the event.
4. In Colorado in June 2015, 41-year-old clinical social worker Lisa Kerscher suffered a penetrating lung injury caused by a physical therapist performing acupuncture (i.e., dry needling). The lung injury resulted in a pneumothorax or collapsed lung. She was treated at the emergency department of the Rose Medical Center in Denver, Colorado.
5. In Colorado, between 2010-2017, Duane Fenton, PA-C for Dr. Hotzidakis at Western Orthopedics in Denver, Colorado had to surgically remove an acupuncture needle from a patient's shoulder

after a physical therapist broke the needle off in the patient's bone. This was reported directly to the Acupuncture Association of Colorado by Duane Fenton.

6. Three separate dry needling injuries were filed as brought to the Acupuncture Association of Colorado (AAC)'s attention via the petition "'Protect the Public from Permanent Injury due to 'Dry Needling' by Inadequately Trained PTs in Colorado.'" These injuries were reported by Catharine Fahey, RN, a registered nurse in Boulder, CO. She stated: *In the last month alone, I've run into 3 people with serious injuries from dry needling by PT[s] or massage therapist[s]. Obviously more injuries are occurring than even the studies in this petition site.*

Other Reported Injuries Pending Investigation and Formal Complaint:

On March 28, 2018, Carrie Tempalski, RN, LAc, and emergency room nurse of 18 years, submitted a statement to record two dry needling injuries by physical therapists who came to her for treatment. One of these patients suffered a severe hematoma with blood collecting underneath the breast, and the other suffered a collapsed lung which required hospitalization and surgery. Prior to these incidents, as an emergency room nurse, she also cared for three additional patients who had suffered pneumothorax (collapsed lungs) during physical therapy "dry needling" sessions.

On March 18, 2018, , in response to the petition "Protect the Public from Permanent Injury due to "Dry Needling" by Inadequately Trained PTs in Colorado":

Robert Masteller of Longmont, CO wrote: *I have been made aware of a PT that was performing supposedly Dry Needling -- and it was most likely Acupuncture -- [and] caused Atelectasis [a partial collapse of a lung].*

On March 19, 2018, Lindsay Long of Boulder, CO wrote: *I have been a licensed acupuncturist specializing in sports medicine for ten years. The first year I practiced in Colorado between 2013 and 2014 I had TWO patients report that they had suffered from a pneumothorax caused by "dry needling" performed by a physical therapist.*

Also on March 19, 2018, in response to the petition, Joyce Banaka of Mancos, CO wrote: *I know [dry needling] is a high risk problem from experience.*

Also on March 19, 2018, in response to the petition, Jane Gregorie of Denver, CO wrote: *People with such limited clinical training in needling are a public health risk. I have heard of 2 cases of lung punctures by PTs needling and seen a horrendous hematoma on a patient from a PT needle that took her to the ER.*

Also on March 19, 2018, in response to the petition, Kimberly French of Denver, CO wrote: *I have seen [dry needling] injuries repeatedly.*

Again on March 19, 2018, in response to the petition, Ore Berry of Arvada, CO wrote: *I have experienced this procedure from a PT. The pain compared to a real certified acupuncturist was terrible. Had it once and the next time I went back to PT I told them absolutely not.*

Again on March 19, 2018, in response to the petition, Julie Martin of Carbondale, CO wrote: *I have had both [dry needling] and acupuncture by an acupuncturist. Dry needling [by a non-acupuncturist] induced migraines for me instead of treating and preventing them [like] acupuncture has.*

On March 20, 2018, in response to the petition, "Protect the Public from Permanent Injury due to "Dry Needling" by Inadequately Trained PTs in Colorado", Tara Kaltenbsugh of Littleton, CO wrote: *I've been hurt by my physical therapist and now I won't go back. I couldn't walk for two days! I needed crutches! I could barely drive home!*

Also on March 20, 2018, in response to the petition, Debra Martin of Lakewood, CO wrote: *I have personally witnessed harm caused by someone not properly trained using [acupuncture] needles in a public setting.*

Again on March 20, 2018, in response to the petition, Gloria Annie Duignan of Boulder, CO wrote: *I've had a negative experience with dry needling. I was treated for a shoulder problem but the needling caused the arthritis in my hand to become much more painful and it didn't improve after time.*