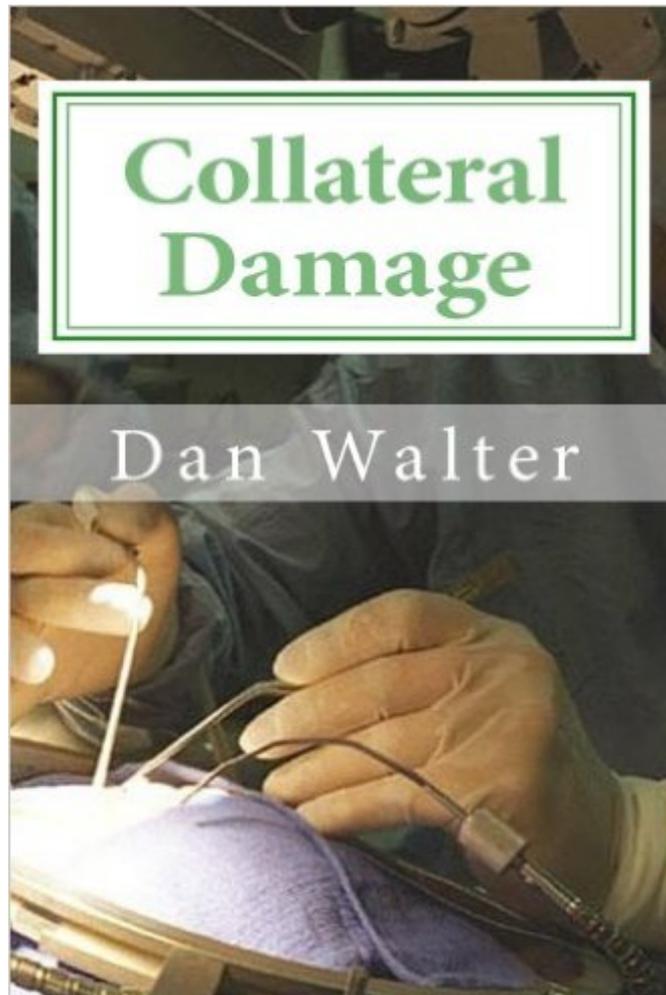


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# Collateral Damage: A Patient, A New Procedure, And The Learning Curve



## Synopsis

"I highly recommend this book. It is a well-written study of one person's experience at the hands of the most exalted research hospital in our country. I am a medical malpractice defense attorney. I read Mr. Walter's book because I wanted to hear a patient's viewpoint... Mr. Walter brilliantly tells the story of how one of the foremost teaching/research hospitals in the country practiced on his wife without disclosing that they were doing so. I was riveted, and ultimately ashamed of what is an all too common practice. I wish that all of the physicians at Johns Hopkins would read it, and realize that their patients are not research rats." - .com Customer Reviews

## Book Information

Paperback: 202 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; 1 edition (December 20, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1456471600

ISBN-13: 978-1456471606

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (28 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,109,958 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #245 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime > White Collar Crime](#) #573 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Heart Disease](#) #218319 in [Books > Textbooks](#)

## Customer Reviews

Along with John James "A Sea of Broken Hearts", this book should be read by anyone considering invasive heart procedures. I had to stop reading several times, in order to walk around my house---it is unbelievable what this family endured.

A sobering and in depth look at the world of academic and corporate medicine. The author challenges so-called "medical ethics" and professionalism in the modern practice of medicine where corporate greed and personal ambition take first place before compassion and service to others. Well done and a good read.

This is an outstanding book. Rarely does an author so courageously stare into the mouth of the lion to expose truths of the medical profession that need to be told, and from a first hand perspective.

Should be required reading for both patients and anyone in the medical field.

I just finished reading *Collateral Damage: A Patient, a New Procedure, and the Learning Curve*. I am a nurse who works in the cardiovascular field and I found this book gripping. It was astonishing to read about atrial fibrillation and its treatment options from a patient's perspective. This book demonstrates that the way informed consent is obtained and understood in this country is less than optimal. Mr. Walter's documentation of the events appears to be thorough and true. If a catastrophic event such as this can occur in one of the most esteemed medical centers in the USA, it tells me we all have a long way to go to achieve safe and effective patient care with positive outcomes. This book will be of interest to anyone with a medico-legal and/or a medico-ethical concern. I learned a lot from this account. The next time I witness an informed consent, I will make sure the patient understands exactly what is going to occur, who will be performing the procedure, and that ALL of the risks are laid out in plain English.

Dan Walter relates what DID happen, not what could happen in his book about the real life experience at one of the nations leading research hospitals. Their experience and pain is a heads up to maybe stop this from happening to you. One man tries to help his wife and get to the bottom of how this could happen. It reads like a medical thriller, but unfortunately is true. A fight against medical ego, corruption, payback by the corporations who exploit the medical work and the very powerful medical institutions. This is a must read for anyone who is a consumer of medical resources or works for them.

This is an important book, in that it reveals an unexpected risk for patients. Not only is this about the use of medical instruments in untrained hands, it is about giving over surgery to those not yet trained, and not supervised by the would-be teacher. Errors compound errors and the failure of the system to prevent them is a greater risk, as this book makes clear. The push for transparency must also include transparency as to who does procedures, what the level of training and experience must be, as is obvious from this book. A fairly quick read, and highly upsetting.

Even though this book reads like a thriller, it is all too real. Having worked in the medical device industry for over 20 years, I can attest to the unseemly and cozy relationship between medical professionals and device companies. The author certainly has a point of view in the book but I came away believing that the book was overall well balanced and his contentions were supported by

evidence. In recent years, the FDA has been cracking down on payments made to doctors by device companies and recent regulations have been fairly effective in limiting those payments. Informed consent however is another matter. Books like *Collateral Damage* highlight the lax regulations concerning these disclosures. Informed consent should be open, clear and unambiguous. Hopefully books like this and others will help bring focus to this need so patients can feel confident they understand what they are getting into.

I am a medical malpractice defense attorney. I read Mr. Walter's book because I wanted to hear a patient's viewpoint. I defend physicians, and think 90% of the lawsuits are frivolous. There is no guarantee. I took it for granted that patients realized that residents, without much experience, would be performing most of the surgery at our teaching hospitals. Of course, doctors must practice in order to be more skilled, but practice on whom -- your family? Mr. Walter brilliantly tells the story of how one of the foremost teaching/research hospitals in the country practiced on his wife without disclosing that they were doing so. I was riveted, and ultimately ashamed of what is an all too common practice. I highly recommend this book. It is a well-written study of one person's experience at the hands of the most exalted research hospital in our country. I wish that all of the physicians at Johns Hopkins would read it, and realize that their patients are not research rats.

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