Miss Diagnosis

Women sues for false positive

January 1, 1998

A South Korean bar hostess snared all of $11,100 in “mental anguish” damages after being misinformed at a state clinic that she’d tested positive. Post-diagnosis, she joined an HIV support group, moved in with a member and got the virus she thought she already had. Having learned of the clinic’s initial medical misfire, the woman, identified in court records only as Chung, sued for 10 times the amount awarded. The Seoul District Court demanded a government payup, with a ruling that barked, “The government is responsible for paying compensation for the pyschological damage she suffered due to its failure to notify her of accurate results.”

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