

DAVID J. GLATTHORN CIVIL TRIAL LAWYER

AGGRESSIVE, ETHICAL REPRESENTATION FOR OVER 30 YEARS

David Glatthorn, Esq.

When Medications Are Hazardous to Your Health



Prescription-medication errors are a common form of medical negligence. The Food and Drug Administration estimates that over 1.3 million Americans are harmed by medication errors each year, some fatally.

Sometimes a patient is at fault by failing to follow clear instructions. In other circumstances, however, physicians (and/or affiliated hospitals), nurses, pharmacists, and drug manufacturers may be responsible. The most widespread mistakes include patients receiving the wrong medication and being prescribed incorrect dosages. In addition, healthcare providers might fail to account for a patient's drug allergies, overlook potential adverse drug interactions, or neglect to inform patients of common side effects. Manufacturer and pharmacy mislabeling issues can also harm patients.

play a significant role, too. Many medication names sound alike when spoken or have similar spellings to others, which can lead to errors. Notorious physician penmanship can contribute as well. In many areas of the country, the transition from handwritten prescriptions to electronic prescriptions has been a godsend.

Patients should inform their physicians and pharmacists of all over-the-counter medications and dietary supplements they are taking. These can negatively interact with prescription medications.

It's advisable for patients to utilize the same pharmacy for all their prescriptions, which can be invaluable for the pharmacy in keeping tabs on potential drug interactions. Roughly one-third of U.S. adults take five or more prescription medications each day.

Ask questions of your physician and/or pharmacist; obtain clarification. Check the medicine container to verify the prescription and that your name is on it.

If you are injured by a medication error, contact a medical malpractice attorney to protect your rights. •



Spinach and Feta Pita Bake

This quick and easy dish can serve well as an appetizer at a party, or a meal around the table.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tub sun-dried tomato pesto, 6 oz.
- 6 whole wheat pita breads, 6-inch each
- 2 roma (plum) tomatoes, chopped
- 1 bunch spinach, rinsed and chopped
- 4 fresh mushrooms, sliced
- ½ c. crumbled feta cheese
- 2 Tbsp. grated parmesan cheese
- 3 Tbsp. olive oil
- (optional) ground black pepper

PREPARATION

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
- Spread tomato pesto onto one side of each pita bread and place on a baking sheet, pesto-side up.
- Top pitas with tomatoes, spinach, mushrooms, feta, and parmesan cheese. Drizzle with olive oil. Season with pepper (if desired).
- Bake for about 12 minutes, or until pitas are crisp. Cut into quarters before serving. •



Historical Extras on Lincoln's Assassination

On April 14, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. A single shot from 26-year-old John Wilkes Booth punctuated the end of the Civil War.

While the above-cited facts may be widely known, others frequently fly under the radar. For instance, Lincoln was familiar with Booth, who came from a well-known theatrical family. In 1863, Lincoln had attended a performance at Ford's Theatre in which Booth played one of the lead characters—fittingly, a villain. According to author Harold Holzer, who penned the book *President Lincoln Assassinated!*, Booth, who had already developed a seething hatred for the president, directed much of his dialogue toward the presidential box.

Lincoln's assassination was part of a much broader conspiracy. Booth and his fellow conspirators also planned on bumping off Vice President Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State William Seward concurrently, at different locations. The attack on Johnson was aborted; the attempt on Seward was unsuccessful. Ulysses Grant had been targeted, too, at Ford's Theatre. He and his wife were originally scheduled to accompany the Lincolns, but tension between the wives prompted "other plans." The ultimate goal for Booth, a Confederate, was to cripple the Union government in one fell swoop.

Lincoln's bodyguard was nowhere to be found at the time of his assassination. He allegedly left his position for a better view of the play and at some point, headed to the saloon for a cold one. Ironically, Lincoln had signed legislation the day before which created the Secret Service. However, the Secret Service's duties would not include protecting the president until 1902, following the assassination of President William McKinley. •

Warm Weather . . . with a Twist of Lyme



From spring through summer, Lyme disease can be a menace, spread primarily by the deer tick. The tick is not the source of Lyme disease; it is merely the carrier, feeding off animals that are host to the offending bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi*.

Ticks cannot jump or fly. They rest on low-lying vegetation and attach themselves to humans or animals who brush against them.

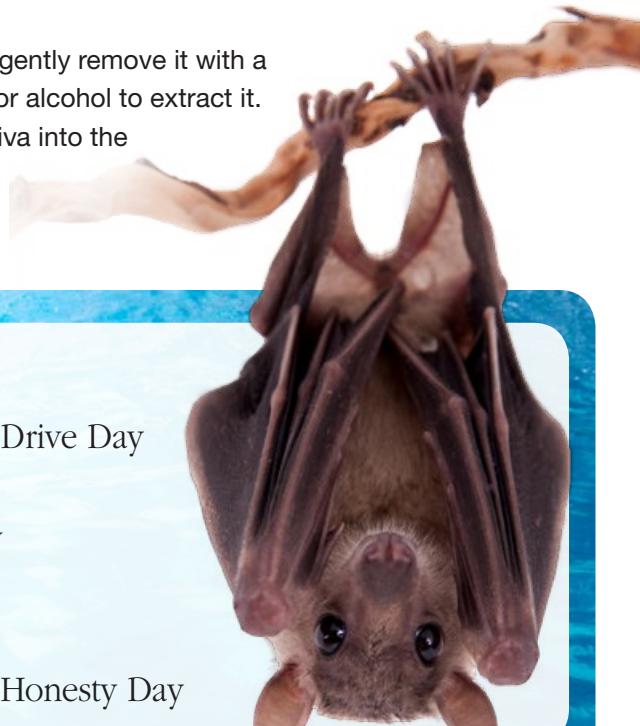
When a tick feeds on a victim, the transfer of Lyme disease—which takes at least 24 hours—is aided by immune suppressors contained in their saliva, which shield the bacteria as it invades the host's bloodstream.

Lyme disease's familiar bull's-eye rash is evident in only 70 to 80 percent of cases. Early-stage Lyme disease is highly treatable. Untreated Lyme disease can lead to severe arthritis, neurological damage, and serious cardiac conditions.

The reason many early tests for Lyme disease turn up false-negative is that it takes the body four to five weeks to build up antibodies that show up in blood tests. Anyone tested sooner may get a false reading.

When spending time in wooded or grassy areas, protect yourself from ticks by wearing light-colored clothing (to more easily spot ticks). Cover up, use tick repellent as instructed, and conduct a thorough tick check following outdoor activities.

If you find a tick—pay extra attention to damp, creviced, and/or hairy areas—gently remove it with a fine-tipped tweezers. Do not attempt to use heat, nail polish, petroleum jelly, or alcohol to extract it. Home remedies just agitate the tick, prompting it to release more infected saliva into the bloodstream. Bottom line: Don't tick off a tick. •



April 2019 Notable Dates

April 3 – National Walking Day **April 5** – National Flash Drive Day

April 9 – National Cherish an Antique Day

April 12 – National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day

April 17 – National Bat Appreciation Day

April 23 – National Talk Like Shakespeare Day

April 27 – National Pool Opening Day **April 30** – National Honesty Day

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506A Datura Street, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

(561) 659-1999

www.DavidGlatthorn.com



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Sporting Events and 'Assumption of Risk'

This spring and summer, millions of fans will walk through the turnstiles to cheer on their favorite major league, minor league, and college baseball teams. In doing so, however, fans accept a certain level of risk ("assumption of risk").

Stadium owners have an obligation to act reasonably to minimize spectator injury risks posed by the game, hence the netting behind home plate. However, during a game, foul balls and errant throws will enter the stands at unprotected areas. Bats that slip out of hitters' hands or pieces of broken bats may occasionally land there, too. These events are considered inherent to the game; therefore, spectators assume the risks that accompany them. Typically, stadium owners and players will not be liable for resultant spectator injuries.

The same generally holds true for other sports in which a puck, stick, ball, or hurtling player may interject themselves into fans' lives.

However, actions that are not a normal part of the sport are a different matter. For instance, a player who throws something in anger at another player but strikes and injures a fan instead, or a players' brawl that spills into the stands and causes harm to spectators.

Assumption of risk also does not apply to circumstances originating from outside the field of play. For example, if an attendee is injured due to a defective product (e.g., railing, escalator, steps, etc.), inadequate lighting, a slip-and-fall incident, or lack of security personnel, among other possibilities, he/she may have a valid personal injury claim.

Attending a ball game should be a fun night out. However, if you are injured, contact a personal injury attorney to explore your options. •

