# [***Vivek Malhotra v. Paula Massberg; 2007 Mealey's Jury Verdicts & Settlements 3411***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=jury-verdicts-settlements&id=urn:contentItem:4PHK-5FW0-0223-Y052-00000-00&context=)

MER-L-264-05

July 25, 2007

**Headline:** Auto ***Accident*** Victim Awarded $370,000 By New Jersey State Jury

**Result:** $370,000 plaintiff verdict

**Injury:** Neck strain, left thumb basal joint injury and left foot neuropathic paresthesia

**Court:** N.J. Super., Mercer Co.

**Judge:** Mary C. Jacobson

**Plaintiff Profile**

Vivek Malhotra

**Defendant Profile**

Paula Massberg

**Plaintiff Counsel**

Gabriel R. Lependorf, Lependorf & Silverstein, Princeton, N.J

**Defendant Counsel**

Keith Bursack, Law Office of Doreen Ryan, Wall, N.J

**Case Summary**

**Claim:** Auto negligence

**Background:** Sources told Mealey Publications that on Dec. 23, 2003, Vivek Malhotra, now 47, was driving his ***car*** in the left lane of Route One south in West Windsor, N.J., near the intersection with Harrison Street, when a ***car*** driven by Paula Massberg, now 81, was in the right lane. All of a sudden, sources said, Massberg pulled in front of Malhotra and stopped. Sources said Malhotra could not stop in time and struck the rear of Massberg's ***car***.Sources said Malhotra was injured in the ***accident*** and suffered a neck strain, left thumb basal joint injury, which was treated with two steroid injections, and left foot neuropathic paresthesia.Malhotra sued Massberg on Jan. 31, 2005, in the Mercer County, N.J., Superior Court.

**Other:** The trial lasted two days and the jury deliberated about 1-1/2 hours, sources said.Sources said Malhotra demanded settlement of $40,000, while Massberg offered $25,000.Massberg stipulated to liability but disputed the nature, cause and extent of Malhotra's injuries, sources said.Sources said Massberg's insurance carrier was Allstate Insurance Co.

**Defense:** Allegations denied.

**Plaintiff Expert(s)**

Richard Chang M.D., Bridgewater, N.J., orthopedist, Malhotra's treating physician, testified on the extent of his injuries

**Defendant Expert(s)**

Thomas K. Bills, M.D., Lawrenceville, N.J., orthopedist, testified on the extent of Malhotra's injuries and stated that they were pre-existing or degenerative

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LexisNexis Jury Verdicts and Settlements Report

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