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STATE TIES DEATH OF 10 PATIENTS TO AN AIR FILTER

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The deaths of 10 patients in a bone marrow transplant unit at the Roswell Park Memorial Institute in Buffalo in 1982 and 1983 were linked to an antiquated air filtration system, according to a report issued today on an investigation by the State Health Department.

In a 148-page report, the department charged the hospital with inadequately monitoring a surge in infections and with failing to report the rising number of deaths to the state. The deaths occurred in a 12-month period during which the air filtration system, because of its age and design, failed to screen out common fungus spores.

Although Roswell Park, which is operated by the State Health Department, had been doing bone marrow transplants since 1977, it opened a special six-bed unit in April 1982 devoted exclusively to such transplants.

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