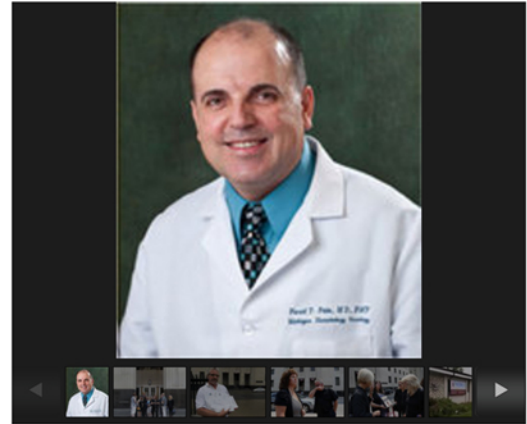




Michigan cancer doctor isn't first oncologist to mistreat patients, lawyer argues against life sentence

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DETROIT, MI -- Farid Fata isn't the first oncologist to be busted for fraudulent chemotherapy treatment.

A lawyer for the Michigan cancer doctor, who **admitted** to mistreating more than 500 patients, argued in court Thursday that other physicians who harmed people in disturbing federal health care fraud cases have not received life sentences, and neither should Fata.

Young Moon, a Tennessee oncologist who **was convicted in 2006** of giving her patients partial dosages of their chemotherapy and side-effect medications while charging insurance agencies for full doses, was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison and ordered to pay \$430,000 in restitution, according to court records.

"We're asking this court not to pose a disparate sentence when it looks at established precedents," Fata's lawyer Christopher Andreoff told U.S. District Judge Paul Borman after pointing out the Tennessee case and others.

Borman is presiding over the case of another disgraced Michigan doctor, neurosurgeon Aria Sabit, **who pleaded guilty in May** to four counts of health care fraud.

Sabit was accused of performing fraudulent lumbar spinal fusion surgeries, telling patients and insurance companies he'd placed medical devices in spinal columns without ever actually doing so.

Andreoff pointed out that prosecutors agreed in that case to recommend a sentencing guideline calculation of nine to 11 years. Sabit also agreed to forfeit \$700,000 and a \$2.3 million Bloomfield Hills home.

The government in Fata's case is asking for a 175-year prison sentence and \$17.6 million in restitution.

Defense lawyers are asking for 25 years.