

# MACOMB DAILY

## CRIME

### Federal judge rejects plea deal for rogue doc in bad surgery case



POSTED: 10/02/15, 1:35 PM EDT | UPDATED: 2 DAYS AGO

DETROIT (AP) — A judge has rejected a plea deal instead of sentencing an Oakland County doctor who admits he hurt patients and cheated insurers through fraudulent spinal surgeries.

Federal Judge Paul Borman turned down an agreement Friday that calculated Dr. Aria Sabit's likely prison sentence somewhere between 9 years and 11 years.

It means Sabit will go to trial unless prosecutors and the defense come up with a deal that satisfies the judge.

Sabit had pleaded guilty to fraud, acknowledging that he performed unnecessary or improper surgeries that caused serious injury. He said he also got kickbacks in Ventura, California, for using certain implants.

"I applaud Judge Borman's decision to hold off on accepting any plea agreement until more facts are known, especially with respect to how Dr. Sabit's misconduct has adversely affected his many victims," said

Brian McKeen, who represents two of Sabit's victims.

“Regardless of the eventual outcome of the criminal case I intend to continue on my quest to hold Dr. Sabit and the hospitals that allowed these travesties to occur fully accountable.”

Sabit moved to the Detroit area in 2011 while he was under investigation by regulators in California.

The [Detroit Free Press reports](#) Sabit lives in Birmingham and owned and ran the Michigan Brain and Spine Physicians Group with locations in Southfield, Clinton Township and Dearborn. [He pleaded guilty to the charges in May](#), when several victims spoke out about the pain caused by the improper procedures.

Cindy Hallett, 60 and from Davisburg, walked slowly from the courthouse, her shoulders stooped, and paused to talk about how Sabit treated her back and leg pain after the guilty plea.

“He was supposed to do a fusion. He opened me up and closed me up and did nothing,” Hallett told The Associated Press, crying as she described her experience. “I just want to ask: Why? I don't understand how you can treat another human that way. ... He's been stopped. That's all I wanted.”

This case follows the arrest, plea and sentencing of Dr. Farid Fata, an Oakland Township oncologist who admitted to treating patients who did not need chemotherapy and [drew the wrath of many across the region](#).

He was [sentenced this summer to 45 years in prison](#), a sentence that [angered many as federal prosecutors sought a 175-year prison term](#) for the then-50 year old.

Judge Borman presided over the Fata case as well.

—Staff writer Dave Phillips contributed to this report