

Posted: Jul 07, 2015 8:02 AM EDT <

Patients will have their say at sentencing for cancer doctor

Roughly two dozen victims are signed up to give statements on Tuesday in Detroit federal court. It's all part of the sentencing for Dr. Farid Fata, who pleaded guilty last year to fraud, money laundering and conspiracy. The government says more than 500 people received unnecessary treatments from Fata, including some people who didn't have cancer. Prosecutors are seeking a 175-year prison sentence, while the Oakland County man is asking for no more than 25 years. The punishment is expected later this week.

On Monday, Harvard medical professor Dr. Dan Longo said Fata performed a "stunning" number of rigorous but unnecessary treatments.

Copyright 2015 Associated Press. All rights reserved.

“The testimony of the many victims who appeared this morning in a Federal Court was gripping. It brought some much needed light to the magnitude of the suffering experienced by Fata’s victims. For each and every one of Fata’s blatant acts of medical malpractice, a chain reaction of destruction and harm followed. His malpractice adversely affected not only the patients but their families as well. Bear in mind that those who came forward and were allowed to testify represent only the tip of the iceberg. One question was asked over and over, ‘How was Dr. Fata allowed to get away with this?’ In the pending civil litigation we hope to answer that question and hold accountable everyone who played a role in this epidemic of medical malpractice,” said Brian McKeen, managing partner of McKeen & Associates, who is representing several of Dr. Fata's victims.