

Former physician's assistant at Neurological Surgery PC in Long Island says doctors sexually harassed and belittled workers and took breaks during operations

BY [DAREH GREGORIAN](#) // NEW YORK DAILY NEWS // Wednesday, April 15, 2015, 2:30 AM



Doctors from a Long Island surgical center sexually harassed and belittled staffers, did unnecessary procedures and took lengthy breaks during surgeries, a former employee claims.

Physician's assistant Jean Menghini, 49, says she complained to her bosses at Neurological Surgery PC about some of their doctors' dangerous practices and degrading comments — and was rewarded with a pink slip in March as a result.

Now she's suing them for unspecified damages.

"It's just a very toxic environment," Menghini told the Daily News.

"Women should not have to accept this as normal behavior."

When she confronted one doctor about making inappropriate comments about his daughter and her friends, he shot back, "If your brains were as big as your breasts, you'd be a genius."

Menghini's Nassau County Supreme Court suit says the doctors were more than louts.

One surgeon unnecessarily froze patients' bone flaps — pieces of their skulls — so he could bring them in for a separate procedure to reinsert them, the suit says. "It was needless," she said.

When she questioned the doctor about it, the suit says he blew her off — as did her bosses at the Rockville Centre headquarters of NSPC, which describes itself as "the largest private neurosurgery practice on Long Island and in the tristate area."



Jean Menghini says in lawsuit Dr. Ramin Rak and other docs at Long Island's Neurological Surgery PC sexually harassed her.

When she questioned the doctor about it, the suit says he blew her off — as did her bosses at the Rockville Centre headquarters of NSPC, which describes itself as “the largest private neurosurgery practice on Long Island and in the tristate area.”

The same doctor, Ramin Rak, would grill her about her “sexual appetites,” and after a company Christmas party, accused her of trying to hit on his wife after he saw them dancing near each other. “Are you after my wife?” he asked while operating on a patient days after the party, the suit says.



Hilda Mayer, said her boss “mocked” her cancer, and then canned her when she complained about how she was being treated.

“I said, ‘I don’t understand what you’re asking me,’” Menghini said. He then asked her if they were “at war,” and jabbed her finger with a needle he’d been using on his patient, forcing her to run to the emergency room for treatment, the suit says.

She said her bosses assured her the prick was an accident, but “I don’t feel at all that it was.”

She complained, and was sent to work with other doctors who weren’t much better — and “exhibited extremely discriminatory, misogynistic behavior,” the suit says.

One doctor, Paolo Bognese, would say “f--- me in the ass” when he was frustrated, and “f--- me in the ass seven times” when he was extremely frustrated, the suit says.



The Neurological Surgery PC in Long Island.

Bognese, who the suit says had been sued for malpractice over 20 times, also allegedly liked to take “excessive and unnecessarily long breaks during surgeries.” The suit said he once took off for over an hour in the middle of a procedure.

“Everyone was just sitting around waiting for this guy,” Menghini said.

She said she again complained, and again nothing was done.

She was told she was being downsized in March — but then saw want ads for her job, said her lawyer, David Gottlieb of Wigdor LLP. And when they found out she’d hired a lawyer, they refused to pay her severance, the suit says.

“This case embodies the phrase ‘no good deed goes unpunished,’ ” Gottlieb said.

The suit is the second against NSPC in recent months. The News reported in February that another former employee, Hilda Mayer, said her boss “mocked” her cancer, and then canned her when she complained about how she was being treated.

The center declined comment.