



Patient Sues Moffitt Over Radiation Treatments

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Published: Aug 26, 2006

TAMPA - A man treated for a brain tumor sued the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute on Friday, saying he received an excessive dose of radiation, causing more health problems.

In 2005, the cancer center's director, William Dalton, announced that a \$3 million stereotactic radiosurgery machine was incorrectly calibrated by a physicist. As a result, 77 people received radiation treatments at a dose 50 percent higher than prescribed, the director said.

John Graham, 67, and his wife, Pauline, filed the lawsuit in Hillsborough County on Friday, saying the side effects of the high radiation paralyzed his right side, leaving him in a wheelchair.

Pauline Graham said Moffitt doctors told the couple that the high radiation could prevent the tumor's return or, in the worst-case scenario, could make it "come back with a vengeance."

The tumor did return, Graham said, and it is bigger than before.

She said doctors have not conclusively linked the radiation to the increased tumor size.

In 2002, Graham was diagnosed with lung cancer, and in July 2004 he was diagnosed with a brain tumor, the lawsuit says. In September 2004, he was treated at Moffitt for the tumor.

Seven months later, the lawsuit says, doctors at Moffitt told Graham that he was one of the patients who received the higher dose of radiation.

A spokeswoman for Moffitt said the center had not received a copy of the lawsuit, and she could not discuss Graham's case, citing patient privacy laws.

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