

# Newsday

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## Patient: Doctor Kissed Me 3 Times

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STAFF WRITER

A woman who went to a West Islip dermatologist to have a facial cyst removed has accused the doctor of kissing her three times during the procedure, and police handling the case say the state Health Department has been investigating a number of complaints against the doctor.

Through his attorney, Dr. Michael Klein, 49, denied the charges by the woman, a Bayport mother who asked not to be identified. "There were nurses there at all times," said the attorney, Shawn Kelly of Riverhead. "This is a responsible physician who has practiced many years in Suffolk County."

The woman, however, said Klein not only kissed her on the cheek and forehead during the Friday visit, but failed to remove the small cyst below her lip and cut her chin slightly with a scalpel when his hand slipped.

A source familiar with the woman's case said at least a dozen complaints, most of a sexual harassment nature, have been filed against Klein with the state Health Department. The Bayport woman has filed a second-degree harassment charge, against Klein with police.

"She came in, made a complaint against him, and it has been investigated, and the complaint

### *Dermatologist is accused of harassment; he denies it*

has been forwarded to the First District Court," said Officer John Horn, who handled the woman's case. The officer said he called Klein's office, but "as soon as they knew I was a police officer, that was it. 'We won't speak to you.'"

Yesterday at the Third Precinct, an investigator from the state's Office of Professional Medical Conduct interviewed the woman about her visit to Klein. "He's told me that he's investigated numerous complaints, some for over a year," Horn said.

A Health Department spokesman declined to comment on the matter.

The woman said she chose Klein through her estranged husband's health insurance plan and wanted the procedure done by the end of November because her husband had canceled her coverage.

As she was lying on the table, she said, Klein injected a local anesthetic, held her head and kissed her on the cheek, she said. "I figured, 'Let me just get this done and get the hell out of the office,'" she said.

The second time, the woman said, he stroked her

hair and kissed her on the forehead. "He kissed my face and said I was so beautiful, why would I let something so small bother me?" the woman said.

Mumbling, sweating, and shaking, Klein waved a scalpel in front of her face, prompting her to have second thoughts about the removal, the Bayport woman said. But when she told him about her reservations about the operation, he kissed her again on the cheek, she said.

"At first, I was afraid to say 'Why are you kissing me?' because he's got a scalpel in his hand. I didn't know what to say. I was very shocked."

Both Klein's nurses said they were in the room during the entire procedure. "He's doing a procedure; we're watching him all the time," said a nurse who gave her name as Mary. The other nurse said, "We did not see him kiss her three times, not even once."

The doctor's attorney questioned the woman's integrity and emotional stability. He said she wants to use the harassment charge as a weapon in case she files a lawsuit, and that she spoke about her divorce to strangers, Klein and his nurses. "I'm implying it's inappropriate to be announcing that to strangers. What does that have to do with a lesion on her lip? It bespeaks something about that person, that she may have some personal difficulties."