

Here are the stories of just a few of the hundreds of Dr. Perwaiz victims. Additional consent language is necessary to prevent this from happening to other women and to provide us legal grounds when it does.



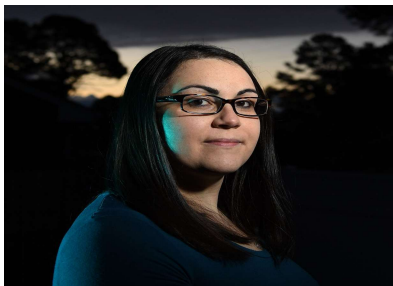
DONNA MASON

In the decade that Donna Mason saw Perwaiz, he performed six surgeries on her — none of which helped stop the intense bleeding she was experiencing, she said. The procedures only made her periods worse, she recalled, and caused a sharp, cramping pain that lasted for years. He never suggested medication as an alternative to surgery, Manson said. After he tried urging her to undergo a hysterectomy, she left his office. She said a new gynecologist offered her medication and hormone treatments instead, and told her many of her surgeries may have been unnecessary.



SHAMAI WATKINS

Shamai Watkins first started seeing Perwaiz for her annual exams, she said, when he told her a pap smear revealed cancerous cells. The diagnosis kicked off a string of surgeries that left her feeling a stabbing, twisting pain, she recalled. Perwaiz blamed the pain on fibroids, and said a hysterectomy would be the only solution, Watkins remembers. She agreed, but said she later learned he had persuaded her with misleading information about her reproductive organs. The surgery took away her ability to have another child, she said, but did not eliminate the pain.



BRITJNI DUPUY-GERMAN

DuPuy-German checked in with women in her life who were also his patients. Her mother told her she had undergone dozens of procedures over decades. And her sister-in-law said she believes Perwaiz may have removed an ovary and fallopian tube without her knowledge. At the same time, DuPuy-German began revisiting her own experiences. Like the women described in news reports, DuPuy-German was on Medicaid. Like them, she said, she had never seen her ultrasound images or been offered medication as an alternative to surgery. Her appointments, she said, always followed the same swift routine: checkup one week, ultrasound the next, surgery just days later.

(continued on back)



KAREN LANE

Karen Lane was 33 when Perwaiz told her in 2000 that she needed emergency surgery to remove her uterus, she said. She had been experiencing heavy bleeding after a minor procedure weeks earlier, and her blood count was running low. Lane had hoped to have more children. But Perwaiz said her life was at risk, Lane remembers, and she believed him. Just a year later she returned to Perwaiz's operating room so the doctor could remove cysts he told her he found on her ovaries, she said. When she awoke, Lane recalls him telling her he had to remove both her ovaries, because the cysts were wrapped around them. She was thrown into early menopause and suffered terrible night sweats. She, too, requested her medical records, and wept in a hospital parking lot as she read what Perwaiz had written in her chart — that Lane “had very strongly expressed that if there is any problem of disease on either ovary, she wants both of them removed regardless of her age and the need for subsequent hormone therapy.” Lane said she never consented to that. “I’ve never been raped,” she said, “but I feel like I’ve been raped.”



ANGELA LEE

Perwaiz suggested performing a hysterectomy on Angela Lee, then 42, in order to treat the heavy periods she was experiencing, she said. After he warned her the issue could turn into cancer, she said she agreed. Days after the procedure, she started bleeding intensely, and was rushed in an ambulance to a different hospital, she said. There, a doctor performed emergency surgery, she said, and she was placed in an induced coma for three days. A doctor later told Lee her bowel had been punctured during the hysterectomy, she recalled. She still does not know whether the hysterectomy was necessary.

DONNA INGRAM-ALLEN (No Photo)

When Ingram-Allen first started seeing Perwaiz in 2012, she was in remission for Stage 3 breast cancer. Perwaiz told her an exam had revealed precancerous cells and that she needed a hysterectomy, according to Allen and the indictment. But the mother of two thought that was too extreme, so she said she agreed to an outpatient surgery to remove only her ovaries. She awoke afterward in “horrendous pain,” she said, and was shocked to learn that Perwaiz had performed a complete abdominal hysterectomy. Three days later, she was rushed back to the hospital with blue skin. She was septic, she said, and her kidneys were shutting down. Ingram-Allen's bladder had been perforated several times during her hysterectomy, she said her new doctor told her. “[Perwaiz] lied about what I needed and what was done to me,” Ingram-Allen said. “My life was supposed to be within my control.” After her recovery, numerous malpractice lawyers declined to take her case. Allen said she sees her case through the lens of the historic mistreatment of women of color by doctors. Her experiences, she said, have reminded her of the forced sterilizations of Black, Latina and Native American women in the 20th century, generations of abuse that continues to cause distrust of the medical field.

Source: Metter, K. and Schmidt, S. (2020, October 13). A doctor is accused of years of unnecessary hysterectomies. The women who trusted him want answers. *The Washington Post*.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/local/javaid-perwaiz-chesapeake-doctor-trial/>