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They sought care at a world-class hospital. Hundreds of women say a doctor there abused them

More than 500 women have accused a renowned OBGYN at Cedars-Sinai of sexual assault and harassment. Some are speaking out about the alleged abuse and calling for stronger patient protections.

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Hundreds of women accused a respected OB-GYN of sexual abuse. Now, they're telling their stories

More than 500 women have accused Dr. Barry Brock of sexual assault and harassment during gynecological visits. Hundreds are now suing the now-retired doctor and Cedars-Sinai for allegedly failing to act on reports of the abuse.

Alyssa Goldberg
USA TODAY

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It started with a car accident. There was something unusual spotted on the MRI she got after the crash, and she was advised to see a gynecologist right away.

The scans had picked up concerning masses in the now-65-year-old woman's uterus. She was terrified it was uterine cancer, so she contacted Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, a world-class hospital in Los Angeles, in 2016. She was referred to one of their recommended, in-network gynecologists Dr. Barry Brock.

The appointment, however, became just one visit cited in a series of complaints filed by McGrath Kavinoky LLP involving more than 200 women who have accused Brock of sexual assault and harassment during gynecological exams. They're suing the now-retired doctor as well as Cedars-Sinai for failing to act on multiple reports of his alleged abuse.

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According to McGrath Kavinoky LLP, Brock, 76, has been accused by more than 500 former patients of making lewd comments during pelvic and physical exams, completing internal exams without gloves, fondling his patients breasts and genitals excessively and forcing them to change into privacy gowns while he watched them undress. The accusations date back to 1986, and the lawsuit alleges that the assaults span his entire 40 year career at Cedars-Sinai. According to the lawsuit, many patients sought care from Brock because of his affiliation with Cedars-Sinai and his specialization in high-risk pregnancies, including women who were cancer survivors and women with autoimmune disorders.

"The type of behavior alleged about Dr. Barry Brock is counter to Cedars-Sinai's core values and the trust we strive to earn every day with our patients," a spokesperson for Cedars-Sinai wrote in a statement to USA TODAY. "Dr. Brock no longer has privileges to practice medicine at Cedars-Sinai. We recognize the legal process must now take its course, and we remain committed to Cedars-Sinai's sacred healing mission and to serving our community."

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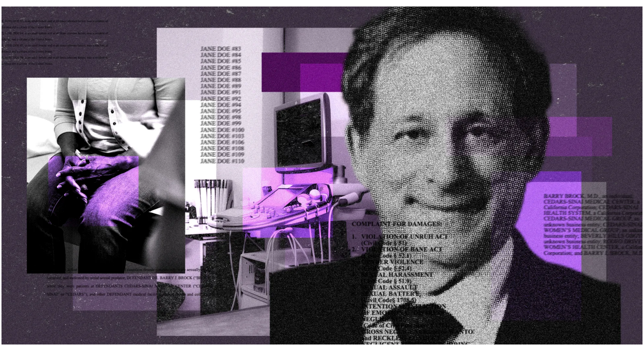

More than 500 former patients have accused a prominent Los Angeles gynecologist of sexual assault and harassment. Women involved in the lawsuit are speaking out about the alleged abuse and calling for stronger patient protections. *Photos: Cedars Sinai & Getty Images Illustration: Alan Nguyen/USA TODAY*

In Brock's office, the lawsuit alleges that the 65-year-old woman's pelvic exam was unchaperoned and lasted almost the entirety of the appointment, and that Brock kept his fingers inside of her while touching her breasts. She told him about her symptoms, an array of digestive issues and stomach pain, with bloating so intense she couldn't fit into her clothing. But he dismissed them, she said.

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Brock assured her that the tumors in her uterus were benign fibroids, according to the lawsuit. When she asked if they could be removed, he told her that "no doctor would ever do that," the woman recalled. The surgery would create a scar that would make her "look terrible in a bikini," he said, according to the lawsuit.

The strangeness of the appointment, and the uneasiness it stirred, didn't fully hit her until Brock left the room.

"I sat up. I noticed there was blood on the floor. That is when I noticed how much pain I was in," she told USA TODAY, revisiting that experience now 10 years later. USA TODAY is withholding her name, as well as the names of others in this story, as it our policy not to reveal the identities of those who allege sexual abuse. "That violation was traumatizing, and it took me four more years before I ever saw a gynecologist (again)."

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In 2020, she had to seek gynecological care again after discovering a small lesion on her vulva. She called Cedars-Sinai for another referral and spoke about her experience with Brock. She requested to only see female doctors, and was eventually diagnosed with a rare invasive cancer. She said she told "every single doctor" about her experience with Brock.

"No one ever asked me to file a report or told me how to. No one had anything to say, there was very little reaction to my story at all," she said. "I wonder if I hadn't had that experience with Brock where I was terrified to expose myself to another gynecologist, would that cancer have been caught sooner?"

After several patients filed civil lawsuits, Cedars-Sinai revoked Brock's clinical privileges in September 2024. Several months later, in June 2025, he voluntarily surrendered his California medical license for life. He has not been charged with a crime. Now, speaking exclusively to USA TODAY, some of the women involved in the suit against Brock are sharing their firsthand accounts, in hopes that by doing so, they'll be able to force stronger protections and reporting guidelines from the hospital.

"This case is in the very preliminary stages of litigation at this time," Brock's legal counsel, Louis H. DeHaas of La Follette Johnson law firm, wrote in a statement to USA TODAY. "(Our firm) has not yet responded to any of the complaints and allegations. However, Dr. Brock denies all of the allegations that have been made against him."

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Some former patients say they still struggle with male doctors and relationships

For the 65-year-old woman, now a cancer survivor, the trauma continues to impact her life. In 2025, she had a recurrence of her cancer. She researched other hospitals to avoid Cedars-Sinai altogether, but finding other nearby facilities with experience treating such a rare type of cancer proved to be difficult.

Her cancer once again went into remission, but now, every two to three months, she goes to Cedars-Sinai for a follow-up appointment that requires internal exams.

“That will likely be for the rest of my life,” she said. “So I never get to relax, I'm always put back in that situation where I have to be exposed, touched, looked at and examined."

She gets relief after the appointment ends, but the anxiety creeps back in about a month before the next one. It "starts as a small wave and gets bigger," she explained.

As she gets closer to the appointment, the symptoms magnify. She starts to cringe at physical touch and gets a sensation of bugs crawling over her skin.

"It's a kind of dread that doesn't really have anything to do with the cancer," she said. "It's just walking back into a traumatic memory that you are forced to relive over and over again."

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But she doesn't feel she has a choice: "I want to stay ahead of this disease so I have to go back to the very institution that saved my life twice, but also abused me," she added.

She, along with other women involved in the lawsuit, said their experiences also changed how they view male doctors, and in some cases men, overall. She said the lingering shame has also impacted her intimate relationships. It's difficult to explain her trauma to partners, because it forces her to relive the alleged abuse.

"When you think about things like sexual assault, you think about dark alleys or parking lots. You don't think about making an appointment for it," she said. "There's a part of you that's asking yourself, 'How much of this is my fault?'"

This lawsuit aims to prove evidence of the "institutional failure" of Cedars-Sinai to act on complaints or warning signs of abuse. *Jason Kirk, Getty Images*

More women represented in the lawsuit have reported unease with gynecological visits.

Another woman, who was seen by Brock in 1986 when she was 21 years old, hasn’t been able to see any gynecologist in over 30 years. Per the lawsuit, during her visit, Brock stood in the room with her while she undressed, made inappropriate comments about her body and touched her genitals in a sexual manner. The alleged abuse continued throughout the entire exam. After the appointment, she immediately confided in her mother. They reported her experience to the "highest level person they could." That person, who was also a doctor, sat and listened, but failed to act, the woman, now 62, told USA TODAY.

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Her "shaming and humiliating" experience with Brock forever changed how she views doctors.

No one ever called to check up on her, she said. She felt as though she didn't matter.

"Eventually, I had to stop gynecologic care altogether. I just couldn't manage it," the 62-year-old said. It's gotten in the way of routine tests like preventative screenings.

"If there's something wrong with me, then it'll kill me. Then that's a risk I can't help," she said. "My body will not let me lay on a table with stirrups."

The women are fighting for stronger patient protections: 'There needs to be some very serious overhauls'

A third woman involved in the lawsuit, who received care from Brock at Cedars-Sinai during her pregnancies in 2006 and 2009, had gotten his name from several friends.

The woman, now 56, hadn't processed her experience with Brock until she learned of the lawsuits against him. It felt "embarrassing" at the time, but she had only been focused on having healthy pregnancies, and she brushed off any concerns she had during the visits. She now understands her experience was a "grooming situation," she said, where Brock "tried to see how far he could go to get what he wanted from a vulnerable person."

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Since 2024, she's dealt with "extreme guilt" for not reporting what she experienced in his office more than 20 years earlier.

"This happened to others after the fact," she said, adding, "This wouldn't have happened if Cedars (took) everything seriously and (did) something about it in the beginning."

Brock did not make an admission of guilt or deny the allegations when he chose to give up his license, which halted further investigations by The Medical Board of California, according to McGrath Kavinoky LLP.

This lawsuit aims to prove evidence of the "institutional failure" of Cedars-Sinai to act on complaints or warning signs of abuse.

"(Brock) wasn't ousted from his position of having privileges at that hospital until 2024 when giant lawsuits were on the horizon," said Jennifer McGrath, an attorney and partner at McGrath Kavinoksy LLP. She called this a "systemic failure" on Cedars-Sinai's part.

The 62-year-old, who saw Brock when she was only 21, said she still carries the burden in the aftermath of what she claims is Cedars-Sinai's "culture of hiding these issues."

"I had to have been one of the earliest women who came forward. I have to live with the fact that even though I came forward, and this is incredibly painful to me, hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of women have suffered," she shared.

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When she heard other women were coming forward about Brock in 2024, the first thing she did was call her mom. Her mom still remembered what had happened decades earlier. It brought back a flood of "humiliation, degradation, self-disgust and shame," the 62-year-old woman said.

But it also brought catharsis.

The 65-year-old cancer survivor said she is ready to hold Cedars-Sinai accountable after being "silenced, dismissed and gaslit." Speaking out about her experience has been painful, but also "healing."

"There needs to be some very serious overhauls of the medical system, especially when it comes to this kind of care," she said. "Women couldn't be more vulnerable during an examination than a gynecological one."

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