

Jascalevich Seeks Exhumation Rights In Curare Inquiry

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HACKENSACK, N.J., May 7 (UPI)—A Superior Court judge reserved decision today on a motion to allow Dr. Mario E. Jascalevich, suspected in the mysterious deaths of nine patients in 1966, to exhume the bodies for an independent medical study.

Raymond A. Brown of Jersey City, Dr. Jascalevich's lawyer, appeared before Judge Theodore W. Trautwein here and argued that his clients, who lives in West New York, was entitled to study the bodies with a physician of his own choice.

Bergen County investigators looking into the deaths of nine patients in Riverdell Hospital in Oradell exhumed five of the bodies earlier this year. Curare was reported to have been found in several bodies. Curare is a muscle-relaxing drug that can be fatal if used improperly.

Empty or near empty bottles of curare were found in Dr. Jascalevich's locker at the hospital after the patients died mysteriously one after another in 1966.

But Dr. Jascalevich, who had been known as "Dr. X" until his identity became known in legal papers, said he had used the drug for medical experiments on animals.

Mr. Brown argued that although his client had not been indicted, he was the target of an investigation and that he should therefore be allowed to prepare to defend himself by gathering his own evidence.

Sybil Moses, an assistant Bergen County prosecutor, urged the judge to turn down the request. She said that Dr. Jascalevich had no legal authority to examine the bodies and that allowing him to study the state's evidence would violate the secrecy of grand jury proceedings.