Jersey Acts to Lift License Of Surgeon in Curare Case

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By M. A. FARBER MAY 2 2 1976

five patients at Riverdell Hosago.

William F. Hyland, the State license. Attorney General, announced complaint charging Dr. Jascalevich with six counts of malpractice related to the Riverdell deaths and six counts stemming from his behavior as a surgeon in a case in Jersey City in 1974 and 1975. The patient in the latter case did not die.

Dr. Jascalevich, who operated vesterday for the first time since his indictment was handed up late Tuesday, was told by the Board of Medical Examiners to show cause by next Wednesday why his license should not be temporarily lifted after a hearing on the 12 counts of malpractice.

The New Jersey Board of Dr. Jascalevich was unavail-Medical Examiners acted yes-able for comment on the new terday to suspend temporarily action, which now places him the license of Dr. Mario E. Jas- before another tribunal in comcalevich, the 48-year-old surplex legal-medical proceedings. geon who was indicted this But his lawyer, Ray A. Brown, week on charges of murdering said at the arraignment in Hackensack on Wednesday that pital in Oradell, N. J., a decade his client would oppose any effort to suspend or revoke his

"There's only one way to that the board had issued a fight this whole matter, and that's to fight it everywhere," Mr. Brown said.

> · The physician has pleaded not guilty to the charges, which were murder handed up by a grand jury after a six-month investigation by Joseph C. Woodcock Jr., the Bergen County Prosecutor. That investigation was prompted by an inquiry last fall by The New York Times into 13 "unusual i or unexplained" deaths at Riverdell in 1965 and 1966.

> The indictment did not affect ! Dr. Jascalevich's right to practice.

The physician, who was chief surgeon at Riverdell from 1963 until his resignation early in 1967, has operating privileges at Christ Hospital in Jersey City and at the Jersey City Medical Center, where he per-formed three hysterectomies yesterday morning.

The medical examiners' complaint, as released by Mr. Hyland, contained no detailed in-

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Continued From Page 1, Col. 3 formation on the charges.

The six counts of malpractice relating to the deaths at Riverdell charged violations of the state's medical malpractice act, the complaint said. The six other counts, growing out of the case in Jersey City in 1974 and 1975, concerned alleged fraud in the practice of medicine, professional incompetence, gross malpractice and gross neglect in the practice of medi-cine that endangered health or life, the complaint said.

It is understood that the case

in Jersey City involved a young man who was operated on by Dr. Jascalevich at Christ Hospital and was later also treated at Jersey City Medical Center.

Medical sources said the case

had posed a number of ques-tions, including whether Dr. Jascalevich's reported diagnosis of cancer was correct, whether reportedly cancerous tissue on which a pathological report was done actually came from the done actually came from the body of the patient and whether the patient had been properly cared for.

The action by the Board of Examiners, which light the body of the patient and the body of the body of the patient and the body of the body o

Medical Examiners, which licenses physicians in New Jersey, had its genesis in Mr. Woodcock's investigation in Bergen County, where Riverdell Hospital is

Hospital is.

Request to Examiners

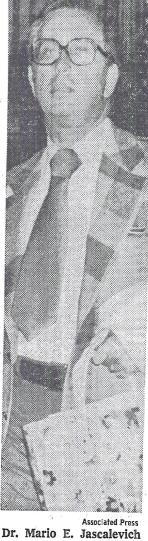
Last January, as Mr. Wood-cock's own investigation was beginning to develop, the Prosecutor asked the medical examiners to consider whether Dr. Jascalevich's license should be suspended pending the out-come of the murder investiga-

As a result of that request, the board started a wide in-quiry into Dr. Jascalevich's proquiry into Dr. Jascalevich's pro-fessional activities. It was di-rected by Anthony LaBue, a deputy state attorney general who serves as counsel to the board, unlike the investigation by Mr. Woodcock, the board's inquiry was not confined to the suspicious deaths at Riverdall

inquiry was not confined to the suspicious deaths at Riverdell.

Mr. LaBue declined to comment last night on the results or details of the board's inquiry, but he said that under the law in New Jersey—as in most, if not all, states — Dr. Jascalevich could continue to practice until he had been given a full hearing on the charges.

Mr. LaBue said that if, following a hearing, the board decided to suspend or revoke Dr. Jascalevich's license, the surgeon could appeal to the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court upheld a board decision to revoke the license of a doctor who had been indicted on a charge of illegally distributing drugs but who had not yet been tried on the criminal charge. The examiners' action is likely, in the coming weeks, to overshadow any activity in Bergen County concerning Dr. Jascalevich's indictment on charges of murdering five patients, including a 4-year-old girl, at Riverdeil. In those



outside his home in Englewood Cliffs, N.J., on Monday. He was arrested Wednesday but was released on bail same day.

Superior Court, and, if that failed, to the New Jersey Supreme Court.

Last year, in a precedentsetting case, the State Supreme Court upheld a board decision

cases, experts employed by the surgeon are expected to begin Eighteen vials that had conexamining the results of examining the results of pathological and chemical tests on tissues from the five bodies, which were ordered exhumed earlier this year by Mr. Wood-

sence of curare in the bodies. tained the drug, most of them empty or nearly so, had seen cock.

The tests, law-enforcement sources said, showed the pre- Jersey City.