

# THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

## Hospital denies it knew about 2009 sex-abuse allegations

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2011-05-06 16:33:51



PLACENTIA – Officials at Placentia-Linda hospital Friday denied that they waited more than two years before notifying authorities about a sexual-assault allegation against an anesthesiologist recently arrested after police say he abused a second woman during surgery.

Yashwant B. Giri, 58, is facing felony counts of sexual battery and penetration with a foreign object after police say hospital employees witnessed him sexually abusing a 16-year-old girl in 2009 and a 36-year-old woman March 18. He was arrested Thursday while driving away from his Cypress home.

Giri, an independent physician who did not work directly for Placentia-Linda or several other local hospitals whose facilities he used, resigned from his staff position last month.

Hospital officials conducted an internal investigation after learning about the second sexual-abuse report, alerting authorities of the allegations April 12. In a written statement released Friday, hospital officials claimed that they didn't learn of the earlier incident until after

they began looking into the second reported sexual assault.

"During the course of our investigation of the allegation brought to light by a hospital employee in March 2011, a second alleged incident from 2009, previously unreported to hospital administration, was uncovered and reported to authorities," the statement read.

The District Attorney's Office stood by its earlier assertion that the hospital was immediately told of the 2009 allegations and that it failed to report it to police at that time.

"The hospital was aware of the sexual assault. The police learned of the first sexual assault from the hospital during the investigation of the second victim," said Farrah Emami, a spokeswoman for the District Attorney's Office. "The only accurate portion of their statement is that the incident was unreported, but it was unreported to police, not to the hospital administration."

Giri was released from custody after posting bond Thursday afternoon, according to Orange County Sheriff's Department records.

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