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## Doctor Pleads Not Guilty To 14 New Sex Charges

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**BURLINGTON, Vt.** -- An orthopedic sports medicine doctor at Vermont's largest hospital has denied 14 new charges of improper sexual conduct with patients.

Dr. Joseph A. Abate, 47, pleaded not guilty to new charges involving 11 patients in addition to the 22-year-old woman he was charged with molesting in June.

Abate was charged with touching the woman's genitals during a follow-up exam after knee surgery. Abate's lawyer, Eric Miller, said the charges are bogus and result from sound medical practice.

Abate, who has worked at Fletcher Allen Health Care for nearly 10 years, was released on conditions including that he relinquish his passport, not leave Vermont and not have contact with the alleged victims.

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