

Surgeon suspended over claim of error in operation

Professor also steps down from teaching as GMC investigates

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ONE of Scotland's most respected surgeons has been suspended amid claims he was involved in an operation in which a procedure was carried out on the wrong spinal disc of a patient.

Consultant neurosurgeon Professor Muftah Salem Eljamel has also stepped down from his teaching and research posts at Dundee University.

Mr Eljamel, 57, has taught medical students at the university and worked in the neurological department of the city's Ninewells Hospital for more than a decade.

But he was subjected to an interim order by the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service in February where restrictions were put on his licence.

The order means the doctor is currently unable to carry out spinal surgery and he cannot complete

private practice work, which he had been doing until last year.

He also must inform the General Medical Council (GMC) if he applies for work outside the UK, and must allow the body to "exchange information with his employer or any contracting body for which he provides medical services".

Mr Eljamel had previously taught medical students in a number of disciplines, which included clinical spinal and cranial neurosurgery.

He also held a position as a consultant at private hospital Fernbrae, run by BMI Healthcare, from which he has since stepped down.

It is understood concerns were raised about his conduct last year, before the decision to put an Interim Order – which lasts up to 18 months – was put in place.

An interim order panel hearing looks at whether a doctor's registration should be restricted while

allegations about their conduct are resolved, where it could be in the interest of the public, or the doctor.

A spokeswoman for NHS Tayside said: "We are aware of the restrictions imposed by the GMC on this consultant. We are unable to comment on matters relating to individual staff."

But it is believed Mr Eljamel has been suspended from his position on the hospital's neurological team while an investigation is carried out by the GMC.

Margaret Watt, of the Scottish Patients Association, said: "We support the decision taken to investigate this doctor. We would hope that following a decision he would be sent for retraining or provided with any supervision should he need it."

A spokesman for Dundee University said: "We are aware of



the restrictions placed on Professor Eljamel, and he has not carried out any teaching at the university since late 2013."

Research previously undertaken at the university by the professor includes work looking at intracranial tumours, and he has also been published with writing on functional, psychosurgery, epilepsy and movement disorders.

Professor Eljamel refused to comment at his home in Newport-On-Tay.

He graduated from Al Fateh University in 1982 and has been a consultant neurological surgeon in NHS Tayside since 1995. He is also a member of the Royal College Of Surgeons Of Edinburgh.

While working for Fernbrae Hospital, Mr Eljamel carried out range of procedures including spinal and brain surgery.

Last year it was revealed that brain surgeon Wlodzimierz Szepielow, who also worked at Ninewells Hospital, was removed from his post after he scored a record low of 17.5 per cent in a surgical exam.

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