

Physician describes impact of malpractice suit

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before our own," Kannai writes. "Defensive medicine,' on the other hand, sacrifices the patient's well-being for the emotional health and sound sleep of the doctor."

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(HealthDay)—A family doctor who was involved in a malpractice suit describes the impact on her practice of medicine in an article published online in the September/October issue of the *Annals of Family Medicine*.

Ruth Kannai, M.D., from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, shared case examples to describe the potential impact of a malpractice suit on medical practice. Topics including [post-traumatic stress disorder](#) and practice of [defensive medicine](#) were included.

The author described one case that involved a woman with symptoms matching the diagnosis of panic disorder. Post-prosecution, the doctor considered every possible diagnosis for every symptom presented and added extra tests to those that had already been undertaken. Another case involved a baby presenting with symptoms of a viral upper [respiratory tract infection](#). Post-prosecution, the doctor felt compelled to provide the mother with a hospital referral in case of emergency.

"We, the prosecuted doctors, are abandoning our most fundamental contract with our clients, which is to place them at the center, putting their needs

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