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## Consultant is struck off after pressuring two patients to remove unfavourable online reviews

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A consultant who worked as an ear, nose, and throat surgeon in the NHS has been struck off the UK medical register for “a pattern of failures” in private cosmetic rhinoplasty work he performed on six patients more than four years ago and for pressuring two of them to remove unfavourable online reviews of his work.

A medical practitioners tribunal found that Mohammed Tahery misled some of the patients during the consent process about the rate of revision surgery needed after his rhinoplasty operations, claiming it was rare when the true rate was 20-25%. In one patient’s case, Tahery’s surgical work was found to be below par. In another case, allegations of substandard work were unproven. But the charges against him focused less on the standard of his surgery and more on his statements about risks and his responses to patients who were dissatisfied with results.

Tahery was found to have failed to acknowledge one patient’s poor outcome, although photographs of the patient before revision showed clearly that too much of the nose had been removed. He reassured the patient that her nose just needed “fine tuning.” This was an inappropriate term for revision surgery, the tribunal found.

Another patient, whose consent form had understated the rate of revision surgery, left an unfavourable review on the website Realself. Using his secretary’s email, Tahery wrote to this patient, “Due to the recent multiple untrue allegations posted on the website in a thread of chat conversations with several Realself members you are now in total breach of the doctor-patient contract.” In evidence to the tribunal, Tahery conceded that there was no such contract and that he should not have used the term.

Another patient was a model who had broken her nose in a fall. She was left with a visible columellar deformity. The tribunal found that Tahery had failed to take account of her profession as a model or acknowledge her concern and distress, inappropriately assuring her that it was not noticeable. The tribunal’s chairman, Julia Oakford, said that the tribunal had also taken into account “that [the patient] suffered from mental health issues and yet Dr Tahery sent correspondence to her demanding that she remove the negative reviews she had posted about him on the Realself website, otherwise he would pursue her in litigation for financial loss of £36 700.”

Tahery, who now practises in Switzerland, challenged the findings of the General Medical Council’s expert witness, saying that he said was not qualified to comment because of his limited experience in cosmetic rhinoplasty. He rejected the findings of dishonesty, saying that the six patients had “blackmailed” him.

Tahery’s evidence “appeared to be clouded by his perception that the six patients had launched a personal vendetta against him,” said Oakford. “Dr Tahery has not offered an apology for his actions [and] has not provided any objective evidence of remediation or reflection, or any evidence of insight.” She concluded, “Dr Tahery’s actions are fundamentally incompatible with his continued registration on the medical register.”

The erasure will take effect after 28 days unless he appeals.