

**When I woke up, I was confused and shocked, woman tells jury**

# GP 'raped patient after drugging her'

By JON RYAN

**A WOMAN'S lunch-time visit to her doctor to have a contraceptive coil fitted became a nightmare, a court heard yesterday.**

First, with no one else in his consulting room, he told her to take all her clothes off and lie on a couch.

Then, it was alleged, he injected her with a relaxant drug and raped her.

Miss X, 33, told the jury

at St Albans Crown Court: 'I was prepared to have the relaxant. He said, "If you want to go to sleep, you can." I did not feel anything for the first few seconds, then I went unconscious completely.'

The next thing I can remember was opening my eyes and the room was swimming round. I was a bit confused. I was not sure where I was. I could feel my legs being pulled round from the couch.

Then the 55-year-old doctor raped her, said Miss X.

'I was a bit confused as to what was happening. I was in no doubt whatsoever that intercourse had taken place.'

Asked why she did not say anything to the doctor or to his receptionist, she replied: 'I just did not know what to do. I was very frightened. I was trying to work out in my mind what I should do.'

'I just wanted to get out of there.'

Miss X was very upset when she arrived at a friend's house, the court heard.

The friend's husband is a policeman and he reported the matter.

When the GP was questioned later in the day, he said: 'Good God, good God, good God.'

'Why should she make this sort of allegation?'

Explaining the use of the drug during the fitting of a contraceptive device, the

doctor told police: 'I asked her if she was suffering pain.'

'She said, "Yes, a bit." I said, "OK, I shall give you a little relaxant."

The drug was a 'short-acting anaesthetic' called Epanol, he added.

The doctor denies rape.

Outlining the case earlier, Mr Evan Stone, prosecuting, said: 'The woman's evidence is absolutely vital and crucial.'

The allegation is one of a

wholly unusual nature, that it actually took place at his surgery.'

Mr Stone said that the woman, an office manager-ess, was 'experienced in the ways of the world.' She had a steady relationship with a boy friend.

'She will tell you quite frankly that she and her boy friend do have sexual intercourse on a fairly regular basis, and have been doing so for some time.'

'She is a woman of some maturity and is not averse to sex.'

'Because of this sexual relationship, she does realise what is going on.'

Mr Stone said that Miss X had been on the 'Pill' for some time. She decided to have a roll instead.

The trial continues.

# Doctor cleared of rape

**A DOCTOR** was cleared yesterday of raping a drugged patient in his surgery.

The drug was meant to relax her while she had a contraceptive coil fitted.

But it could also produce

## Woman may have had hallucination

hallucinations, the judge told the jury.

Judge James Murchie warned: 'Girls sometimes do tell a false story for all sorts of reasons and sometimes for no reason at all.'

He told the jury not to reach a decision on the evidence of 33-year-old Miss X

alone. 'You have to look for confirmation from some other source.'

And he reminded them of the evidence of another woman who had been given the same drug by the doctor.

As she came round the doctor's face appeared grotesque, green and elon-

gated and she had the feeling that the doctor was pressing down on her.

The jury, which included three women, took four hours to reach their not guilty verdict.

Women in the public gallery at St Alban's Crown Court, Hertfordshire, gasped when it

was announced and one said: 'Good.'

Miss X broke down and was helped weeping from the court by a woman friend.

The 55-year-old doctor, silver-haired and wearing a neat blue suit, looked strained and haggard.

The judge ordered that the costs of the doctor's defence should be paid from public funds.