

Retarded patient pregnant by rape

By MARK LABATON

A 31-year-old quadraplegic resident of the Staten Island Developmental Center, who is severely retarded and unable to speak, is eight months pregnant as a result of a rape, police reported yesterday.

James Walsh, the director of the Willowbrook developmental center, reported the rape to police at 3 p.m. after an X-ray taken at the center showed the woman was pregnant.

The crime is classified as a rape because the woman was not responsible enough to consent to sexual relations, police said.

The woman, whose name is being withheld, was given the X-ray after developmental center employees discovered what they believed to be two tumorous growths on her abdomen.

When asked how the preg-

nancy had gone unnoticed for so long, Walsh said: "There are some possible reasons I discussed with police. But until we have the full medical results (of an examination of the woman), I do not want to comment on them."

He said developmental center authorities "should probably have some more information" today.

"Right now," he said, the pregnancy is "under police investigation and an internal investigation."

According to police, the woman has been institutionalized since birth.

Walsh said that she had been

at the center for more than 10 years and had been in Building 25, a residential building at the center, when the crime occurred.

She "was moved to another location" at the center after officials discovered that she was pregnant, he said.

Sgt. Richard Bracken of the Staten Island Crimes Against Persons Squad said police do not have any suspects in the crime.

Developmental center officials pledged to supply police a list of people who have had contact with the woman, he added.

Authorities tried to contact the woman's family yesterday but were unsuccessful, Bracken said.

Detective Catherine Bertolino of the persons squad is heading the investigation.