

Indian American Sues Salon for Amputation

INDIA JOURNAL

A12 • NOVEMBER 21, 2014 PEOPLE

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - An Indian American woman in Oregon has filed a lawsuit against a nail salon business, who she blames for amputation of her right leg.

Madhu Kumar says a pedicure at a North Portland nail salon led to an infection and then to the amputation of one of her toes and eventually her right leg. She has filed a \$280,000 lawsuit against the salon's owners, The Oregonian, said.

"When the pedicurist was attempting to use a sharp instrument to shave calluses off both of her feet the pedicurist negligently lacerated the media distal tip of (Kumar's) right hallux," states the suit. The hallux is the big toe.

The suit, according to the Oregonian, claims Kumar suffered "profuse bleeding, gangrene to her toe, amputation of her toe, and amputation of her right leg." Kumar seeks \$30,000 in medical expenses and \$250,000 for pain and suffering.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

With sincere regrets I read about the lady who lost her leg due to pedicure (India Journal November 21, 2014). Ladies, do not take pedicure lightly. You can get fungal infections, bacterial infections, septicemia (blood poisoning), hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV. Many nail salons do not sterilize their instruments. Yet these instruments penetrate your tissues. Pedicurists are not board-certified surgeons. Why do surgeons scrub for 15 minutes before any surgery? Please do not risk your lives for good-looking nails. The jets in the whirlpool bath can harbor bacteria and fungi. These whirlpool baths require a minimum of 10 minutes of sanitization. You can ask your spa how they clean and disinfect. Ask them whether they autoclave all their instruments. Be the first client at the spa. You can buy you set of instruments for your personal use and even an autoclave (Amazon.com), which looks like a pressure cooker. . You have to make sure that your instruments are sterilized. An autoclave can sterilize instruments in about 16 minutes. The second choice is to completely submerge the instruments in state approved disinfectants for 24 hours. The best choice is to trim your nails yourselves and use nail polish and stay healthy and live a long life.

Sincerely, R.Prasad, MD, FRCPC, Lakewood, CA.