

The Charlotte Herald

February 24, 2005

Many State Legislatures are considering revising the regulation on Microdermabrasion treatments.

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Atlanta, GA. - Many people have had a microdermabrasion treatment done in a beauty salon or spa, in the future, however, you may have to visit your Dermatologist or Plastic Surgeon office to receive a Microdermabrasion treatment. Many state legislatures are considering a ban on most microdermabrasion machines in salons and spas because of the recent increase in injuries to patients from Aluminum-Oxide crystals. State regulatory boards are finding that many patients are leaving their beauty salon with eye injuries and/or breathing problems from the use of Aluminum-Oxide in microdermabrasion machines. Maria Widmer is a chief health regulatory advisor in California and she said that salons and spas are relatively unregulated and are not the proper place to perform microdermabrasion because of the potential negative health consequences from the use of Aluminum-Oxide and Sodium-Bicarbonate crystals. "We would never allow workers who use or are in contact with Aluminum-Oxide crystals in the construction or manufacturing industries to directly contact these crystals. They are known to be dangerous if not properly used. Only a medical office should be able to legally use these types of microdermabrasion machines just like they can only use laser or Botox on patients."

Kristy Wilson of the North American Spa Association strongly disagrees with the potential revisions to the regulations governing microdermabrasion going through several state houses right now. "I just can't understand what all the fuss is about, our association members have been using these machines for several years now", said Ms. Wilson. "Most spas are relatively small, and they have already invested heavily on microdermabrasion machines that use Aluminum-Oxide or Sodium-Bicarbonate crystals. This regulatory change will have a devastating impact on many spas, while only helping medical offices". Ms. Wilson alleges that many of these state regulatory board changes are the result of intense lobbying from Dermatologists and Plastic Surgeons who stand to benefit enormously from the change.

Dr. Bill Richards, M.D. of the Dermatology Association of America denies that Physicians are lobbying hard to change the regulations in order just to benefit the medical community. "What we want is to bring common sense to the regulatory system that governs microdermabrasion machines. Why is it that salons cannot use a laser or inject Botox without a Doctor present, but can use Aluminum-Oxide based microdermabrasion machines. Only a Doctor can make sure that all the potential hazards from using Aluminum-Oxide are managed properly". Dr. Richards cites the many state-sponsored studies that have identified lax patient-safety enforcement by salons. For example, both patients and practitioners are required to wear safety goggles around the eyes to prevent crystals from entering their eye and possibly scratching the cornea. Only 10% of all salons actually enforced this requirement. Beth Williamson was one of those patients who were not told to put on the small plastic goggles before undergoing a microdermabrasion treatment. "When I was having my microdermabrasion treatment done, some of the Aluminum-Oxide crystals entered my left eye. As soon as I noticed, I felt an intense burning sensation in my eye and lost my sight for a couple of hours. I was so scared that I would not be able to see from my left eye ever again", said Mrs. Williamson. Fortunately for her, she regained her eyesight, but still had to undergo an operation to fully mend her injured left eye. She successfully sued her salon for \$500,000 in order to recuperate lost wages and for pain & suffering.

Kristy Wilson acknowledges that many salons and spas have been switching from microdermabrasion machines that use Aluminum-Oxide or Sodium-Bicarbonate to a newer type of crystal-free machine. The DiamondSkin, Vibraderm, SilkPeel, and DiamondTome machines are examples of this newer type of crystal-free microdermabrasion system that were developed, in part, to alleviate the need to use Aluminum-Oxide crystals with microdermabrasion treatments. It uses a wand with a diamond-coated tip to abrade the skin as the wand is moved over the skin surface. Dr. Richards says that crystal-free machines would be allowed for salons and spas since it does not use Aluminum-Oxide or Sodium-Bicarbonate crystals in order to exfoliate the skin. Maria Wilmer agrees that crystal-free microdermabrasion is much safer than the older Aluminum-Oxide based treatments and would be allowed even under the new proposed regulatory changes.

The number of states that either are planning to pass or are in the beginning stages of passing the regulatory changes is constantly growing. Last month, California began to debate the proposed changes and is expected to pass by a wide majority. The following other states are also expected to change their laws: WA, TX, AZ, FL, OR, IL, MI, NY, PA, MA, OH, GA, and NC.