



HEALTH AWARENESS

Lawsuits Claim Denture Cream Linked To Illness

(NAPSA)—A debilitating medical condition is taking a devastating bite out of the lives of many denture wearers.

The condition is a type of nerve damage called neuropathy—a tingling and weakness in the arms and legs. It may also develop into complete loss of sensation and make walking or standing nearly impossible.

Recent medical studies have linked zinc found in common over-the-counter denture creams to this devastating condition.

Zinc is a mineral found in many foods, including shellfish, meat, beans and cereals. It is also sold in supplement form. It is required by the body to help wounds heal, to keep the immune system functioning properly and to help maintain proper sense of taste and smell. When used as an ingredient in denture products, zinc can help dentures adhere to the users' gums.

Too much zinc, however, can cause nausea, abdominal cramps and diarrhea. Chronic ingestion of high doses can result in copper deficiency, which can lead to serious neurological disease.

While the U.S. Recommended Daily Allowance for zinc is 11 mg for men and 8 mg for women, denture adhesives, such as Super Poligrip and Fixodent, can contain 17–38 mg of zinc per gram of adhesive.

Recently, a lawsuit was filed against a well-known denture



Medical experts say a particular type of nerve damage may be caused by zinc—an ingredient often found in common over-the-counter denture adhesives.

cream manufacturer claiming that the zinc in the adhesive was responsible for a 64-year-old man's paralysis and ultimate death due to respiratory failure. According to the family's attorney, Ed Blizzard, this may be the first case of "denture death" in the U.S.

On February 18, GlaxoSmith-Kline, maker of Poligrip and Super Poligrip, announced it would remove the zinc from its denture adhesives.

The law firm of Blizzard, McCarthy & Nabers recently launched a Web site—www.denturecreamjustice.com—to provide information about the condition and recourse that injured consumers can pursue.

To learn more, visit the Web site or call (866) 941-1947.