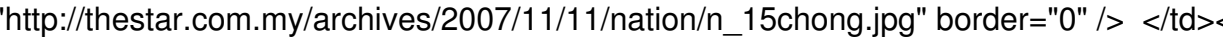


12 November 2007

PETALING JAYA: What was supposed to be a nice traditional treatment ended up being a horrifying event for Liew Yooi Hean. Instead of getting a soothing cupping therapy, the 28-year-old salesman ended up suffering from painful burns, which left marks all over his back.


<div class="caption">Unsightly results: Chong pointing to the marks on Liew's back during a media conference at his office recently. Liew said he was not informed of the effects of the therapy.</div>

Last Sunday, he went to a local massage parlour in Puchong here to get the treatment, but midway through the session he experienced an extreme burning sensation.

For 20 minutes I was left alone in the therapy room with my back on extreme heat, he said.

The therapy involved placing heated glass cups on the back. People believe that the treatment helps remove wind from the body.

I noticed blisters all over my back and there was water and blood oozing out, he added.

He only discovered some 28 suction marks on his back when he got home.

Liew paid RM90 for the therapy, which included foot reflexology.

The blisters and marks were on my shoulders right down to my lower back, he said, adding that he has lodged a police report and sought medical attention.

Liew has also sought the help of MCA public services and complaints department head Datuk Michael Chong.

Chong said the parlour owner has paid Liew RM500 in compensation.

A Chinese physician told me the burning sensation and blisters only occurred if the body was too oily, he said.

Liew said he was not informed of the effects of the therapy during the session.

Chong advised people to be more cautious before going for any kind of therapy.