

Increase in million pound compensation awards against doctors

THE MEDICAL DEFENCE UNION HAS REVEALED IT IS NOW PAYING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CLAIMS OVER £1 MILLION AGAINST ITS MEMBERS.

Last year the MDU, which indemnifies more than 50% of UK doctors, paid seven patients more than £1 million for claims and legal costs made against doctors in general, private and hospital practice.

An analysis of the 20 highest

settlements from medical negligence claims since 1995 revealed claims costs were rising by about 13-15% each year. In 1995 the 20 highest awards involving MDU doctors totalled £5.4 million but by 2004 this figure had risen to £23.3 million.

"The costs of medical negligence claims are rising well above the rate of inflation," said Dr Frances Szekely, MDU senior medical claims handler. "However, while costs of claims are rising, the trend seems to be for fewer claims to be made against our members."



The new Palomar Starlux Pulsed Light System is now available in the UK and Ireland.

The machine can be used to treat a number of indications from veins, wrinkles and rosacea to pigmented and vascular lesions. It can also be used for tattoo and hair removal and has a wide range of hand-pieces tailored for each specific use.

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For further information call Leslie on 07841 741 814 or visit www.palomarmedical.com

EAR OP ALTERNATIVE

LEADING PLASTIC SURGEON AND EXPERT IN EAR RECONSTRUCTION DAVID GAULT HAS ANNOUNCED NEW RESEARCH INTO 'BAT EAR' SURGERY.

The research highlights a technique called neonatal moulding, which could render defunct the need for any surgical procedures. The technique involves the use of Ear Buddies, a product Mr Gault developed when his first child was born with a deformed ear.

Ear Buddies are splints which put pressure on the ear cartilage to reset its tendency to make the ears stick out while maintaining the proper contours of the rest of the ear, and can be fitted by any caregiver.

"Surgery, the conventional solution, is usually delayed until the age of five at the earliest, since before this, the cartilage framework of the

ear is too soft and floppy to hold the stitches," Mr Gault explained.

"Children commonly suffer years of teasing before the problem is corrected. The good news is that neonatal moulding can help in most cases, by avoiding the need for surgery and solving the problem before the child attends nursery or school."

Contact

For more information call 0906 802 0197 or visit www.earbuddies.co.uk

LEFT: A BABY'S EAR BEFORE THE SPLINT HAS BEEN PUT IN PLACE
MIDDLE: THE EAR BUDDIES IN SITU
RIGHT: THE EAR AFTER TREATMENT

