A Saudi judge has asked several hospitals if they are willing to damage a man’s spinal cord as punishment for a cleaver attack that left a 22-year-old paralysed.

The victim, Abdul-Aziz al Mutairi, became paralysed and subsequently lost a foot after a fight more than two years ago.

An unnamed man was sentenced to 14 months in prison for the assault, but released after serving only half that time.

The shortened jail time has reportedly enraged Mr Mutairi’s family. His 27-year-old brother Khaled said they want an equivalent punishment for the attacker and have appealed to a judge in northwestern Tabuk province.

“We are asking for our legal right under Islamic law,” the brother said.

“There is no better word than God’s word - an eye for an eye.”

The judge has since asked several hospitals if medical paralysis was possible and would they perform the operation. Local newspapers reported a facility in the capital Riyadh had declined, saying it could not inflict such harm.

Saudi Arabia enforces strict Islamic law and occasionally hands out punishments based on the ancient legal code.

Amnesty International has expressed concerns over the reports and said it was contacting Saudi authorities for details.

“We are very concerned and we will appeal to the authorities not to carry out such a punishment,” said Lamri Chirouf, the group’s researcher on Saudi Arabia. He added this was the first time Amnesty had heard of a punishment involving the damaging of a spinal cord.

“It’s hard to follow details of the Saudi justice system. People are sentenced in closed trials with no access to the public and no lawyers.”
3M ESPE has given dentists across the region the opportunity to try its newest universal restorative, the Filtek™ Z350 XT Universal Restorative which has now been available on the market for just over three months. This new restorative combines the best attributes of preceding Filtek restoratives, to deliver even better esthetic qualities through an expanded range of body shades. This offers more universal options for creating easy, natural-looking, one-shade restorations, while maintaining the composite’s versatility for dual or multi-layering techniques.

“With Filtek Z550 XT, we’ve modified the technology to maintain the excellent handling dentists love while improving upon polish retention and simplifying the shading system.” As the first and only composite system to incorporate true nanotechnology, the Filtek line has gained a strong following over the past six years for its ability to provide the polish and polish retention of a microfill, while maintaining the strength and wear properties of a modern hybrid.

Speaking of the trials Dr. Samer Aouad, Scientific Marketing Supervisor - 3M ESPE - Middle East and Africa, said: “Feedback from dental professionals is at the core of 3M ESPE innovation, and it’s what allows us to take industry-leading composite technology and make it even better.” The responses were very positive indicating the product will be a dentistry success story.

“I have been using 3M ESPE for 10 years now and have never compromised on quality. I only use the best for my patients and 3M ESPE is known for the high quality of their product. The new Z550 XT is by far the best product that I have ever seen in terms of polishability, shade and shrinkage,” said Dr. Riya Jamalluddin, UAE dentist.

The new product combines and improves on past Filtek restoratives creating one simple choice for universal application. Dentists can now choose from four opacities—dentin, body, enamel and translucent—and numerous shades to create a match for every patient. This wide range of shades and opacities gives dentists more options to achieve a beautiful outcome through single, dual or multi-layered techniques.

“The Z550 XT is a winner. It is easy to handle and it is not sticky. It is easy to sculpt and pack and has predictable esthetic results as the change after polymerization is not significant. The opalescence, translucency and reflection of the light are also impressive. Finally Filtek Z550 XT has excellent polishing characteristics and polishes to a real nice shine and I love the fact that it is a nano-composite," Dr. Ajay Juneja, UAE Specialist Prosthodontist.

“With Filtek Z550 XT, the creation of art in dentistry has become easier. I now get beautiful results using both the single and multi-shade technique,” said Dr. Aziz Lammam, UAE Dentist. “I have been using 3M composites for more than 47 years and I recently tried the Z550 XT. It gives far the most beautiful results I have seen to date” Dr. Mouen Junblat, UAE Dentist.

Additional advancements include even better polish retention of dentin, body and enamel shades, as well as improved handling of translucent shades. Beyond the product attributes, additional simplification is seen in the form of new, bold labeling and color-coded opacities, which simplify the shade selection process. 

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