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Be wary of razors used by barbers

THE public has always been conscious of AIDS. There are posters about the disease in clinics and hospitals, and once in a while, the local dailies run articles about it.

However, we may be less mindful about how the HIV virus can be transmitted, and one of the ways would be through sharing of personal items such as toothbrushes and shaving knives.

Surely, most of us will not share such items, even among family members and friends, but we may do so with complete strangers when we have our haircuts.

It is common for men to have their sideburns and napes shaved after every haircut. Unfortunately, there are barbers who don't bother to change the razors for each customer.

Some of us may realise this and choose not to be shaved or request for a change of razors, but many are actually unaware there are barbers who adopt such a practice.

Sharing razors not only increases the risk of skin infections, it also increases the risk of HIV transmission if open wounds or abrasions are in contact with the razors.

Therefore, it pays to know your barber and, more importantly, know the barber who gives your children their haircuts.

While this may seem like a trivial issue, exposing ourselves to viruses and diseases unnecessarily is not.

ABDUN NIZAR AHMAD,
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