



The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery

Raising Standards, Protecting Patients

MEDIA RELEASE

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WARNING ON COSMETIC PROCEDURES FOR AUSTRALIA'S 'PARTY SEASON'

UP to 100,000 Australians are expected to undergo cosmetic procedures to look their best for the country's end of year 'party season' in coming weeks, but they are being warned about the dangers of choosing an inexperienced practitioner to perform the treatment.

The NSW Department of Fair Trading has received 77 complaints since 2016 about beauty salons offering a range of procedures, including cosmetic injectables.

Australia's peak professional body for cosmetic surgery has issued a public warning to those seeking botox or dermal fillers in the traditional eight-week period between Melbourne Cup and New Year's Eve, as more botched procedures by untrained physicians, or 'cosmetic cowboys', come to light.

More than one quarter of all annual cosmetic procedures take place during the end of year 'party season'.

The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery (ACCS) President Dr Irene Kushelew today warned patients they may face dire consequences if they go to an untrained physician.

"There is a major misconception in Australia and around the world that botox and dermal fillers are beauty treatments, in the same category as facials," Dr Kushelew said.

"This has been heightened by the number of practitioners offering these services in casual settings like shopping malls, at the hairdressers, and even at informal 'botox parties'.

"But cosmetic injectables are medical procedures that carry risks, and these need to be weighed up with the perceived physical and psychological benefits.

"Before receiving any type of cosmetic injectable, you must have a medical consultation with a doctor so they can consider your medical history."

Dr Kushelew said practitioners' skills and their training varies significantly.

"The public needs protection from untrained, inexperienced, 'occasional' practitioners offering cosmetic procedures who do not understand the high-risk areas of the face. Many practitioners undergo a one or two day training course only for cosmetic injectables - this is simply not adequate," she said.

"At this time, the ACCS is the only College offering an eighteen-month cosmetic injectable course for medical practitioners. The course includes exams and leads to Fellowship of the College. This specific

training means practitioners can perform with top-of-class skill, and are dedicated to responsibly guiding patients along with ongoing education.”

Blindness can occur when an artery is blocked by the dermal filler when injected in the wrong place and in the wrong way.

Most popular procedures

- Botox and dermal fillers (cosmetic injectables) are used by women and men to reduce facial wrinkles and lines. The effects are usually temporary and regular treatments are needed to maintain their effect.
- Fillers and anti-wrinkle injections such as botox and dermal fillers involve injection into the face of a Schedule 4 drug classified under the Poisons Standard.
- Anti-wrinkle injections including dermal fillers are the most popular of all cosmetic procedures, estimated to contribute to 80% of all treatments. Other in demand procedures include laser, IPL, breast augmentation and liposuction.

As part of its mission to improve standards and educate patients, the ACCS has published a brochure [online](#) on key issues to consider. A summary can be found below.

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About the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery

Established in 1999, the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery (ACCS) is a not-for-profit, multi-disciplinary fellowship-based body of Cosmetic Surgeons, cosmetic physicians, plastic surgeons, general surgeons, maxillofacial surgeons, dermatologists, ear nose and throat surgeons, ophthalmologists and other doctors and health care practitioners who practice in cosmetic medicine and surgery. The primary goal of the ACCS is to ensure the safe provision of cosmetic medicine and cosmetic surgical procedures to the Australian community through the supply of appropriately trained and certified health care practitioners. The ACCS is the only medical college which provides education and training leading to fellowship specifically in cosmetic medicine and surgery. Fellows of the College are medical doctors who have completed post-graduate education and training and demonstrated competency specifically in cosmetic medicine and surgery. To become an ACCS Surgical Fellow, doctors must typically complete a minimum of 12 years of medical and surgical education and training. For additional information about the ACCS, please visit: <http://www.accs.org.au/>

COSMETIC INJECTABLES – PATIENT INFORMATION

DO

1. Know cosmetic injectables are a medical procedure, not a beauty treatment. Like all medical procedures, there are risks involved.
2. Recognise the law in Australia requires all patients to have a medical consultation with a doctor prior to receiving any cosmetic injectable. At this consultation, your doctor should consider your medical history, allergies, health issues, medication and provide a thorough and realistic analysis of the risks verses the benefits of the procedure.
3. Ask if there are any likely complications - what are they and how can they be treated?
4. Sign a consent form following the thorough disclosure of risks and side effects.
5. Ask if the clinic is registered with the Local Council, as required by law.
6. Make sure you are given a contact number for a follow-up appointment. In the event of a medical crisis, does the Clinic have resuscitation expertise and equipment such as a source of medical oxygen and defibrillator?

DO NOT

1. Proceed until you have found out the product being used is TGA approved for use in Australia
2. Proceed without asking how long the practitioner has been performing these procedures and whether they belong to an educational society or college with continuing education requirements.
3. Drink alcohol 24 hours after treatment.
4. Be seduced by vouchers or discounts.
5. Proceed until you have checked the medical indemnity of the medical practitioner – this legislation varies from State to State.