



The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery

Raising Standards, Protecting Patients

3 May 2019

MEDIA STATEMENT

CONSUMER WARNING: VAMPIRE FACIALS

Australia's peak body for cosmetic surgery and medicine has issued a warning following widespread international reports of HIV contracted after vampire facials in an American spa.

The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery urges Australians to be vigilant when considering any medical procedure, no matter how trendy they are.

The vampire facial, involving the re-injection of your own blood, that is rich in platelets, has increased in popularity in Australia and around the world since Kim Kardashian West posted a selfie on Instagram with blood on her face. Often, the procedure results in a visible improvement through skin rehydration.

According to the reports, two people were diagnosed with the same strand of HIV after receiving vampire facials at a spa in New Mexico, USA.

Micro-needling the skin stimulates collagen production, creating a 'micro injury' which forces the skin to repair itself. The person's plasma is then taken and spread across the skin. Plasma contains growth factors which act as energy boosts for the skin. This helps increase collagen and elastin production, rehydrating the skin.

The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery (ACCS) Councillor Dr Ronald Feiner says there are steps Australians can take to ensure they are receiving these types of procedures safely.

"All Australians should carefully consider any medical procedure," Dr Feiner said.

"Problems occur when your practitioner gives you someone else's plasma, re-uses needles and uses infected syringes. Unprofessional practices like that can lead to infections and even blood-borne diseases.

"Vampire facials are medical procedures, they should never take place in a beauty salon or performed by a beautician.

"Vampire facials should only take place at an approved medical facility by an appropriately trained doctor or nurse. Such professionals must have been trained in the process of venipuncture, the handling of blood products and have meticulous attention in the use of single use, disposable needles and syringes."

The College has a plethora of information available [online](#) for anyone wanting more information as well as a list of appropriately trained medical practitioners in each state.

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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/>