



The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery

Raising Standards, Protecting Patients

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

18 May 2011

Warning over internet and DIY cosmetic procedures

The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery issued a warning today after media reports of people buying and self-administering drugs to reduce wrinkles.

The College is deeply concerned that substances such as those purporting to be Botulinum toxin (aka BOTOX), a restricted drug only available through a prescription issued by a doctor, are being purchased online by individuals and imported into Australia. There are also reports that some people have injected themselves with these substances.

The ACCS strongly warns Australians against purchasing restricted drugs sold over the internet or self-administering any such drugs.

ACCS President, Dr Russell Knudsen, said that one of the worrying aspects of greater online usage is that some unwitting individuals may be tempted to buy medicines which should only be provided through and administered under the supervision of a qualified doctor.

“The complications arising from using such substances, whether they are as advertised or not, can be serious or even deadly. There are recorded cases of deaths overseas as a result of patients being injected with substances not approved for medical use by unqualified injectors,” Dr Knudsen said.

The College has relayed its concerns about these reports to the Therapeutic Goods Administration and other health care regulators.

The College strongly advises anyone considering having a cosmetic procedure to consult with an appropriately trained doctor. Visit the College’s website <http://www.accs.org.au/> for further information and a copy of the College’s patient information brochure, “Things you should know”.

Continues



For further information or interviews, contact:

Alan RM Jones m. 0420 757 009

* * *

The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery is a multi-disciplinary body of general surgeons, plastic surgeons, dermatologists, ear nose and throat surgeons, ophthalmologists and other doctors who specialise in cosmetic surgery. The goal of the ACCS is to ensure the safe provision of cosmetic surgery and cosmetic medical procedures to the Australian general community through supply of appropriately trained and certified medical practitioners. The College has made a full application to the Australian Medical Council to have Cosmetic Medical Practice recognised as a new Medical Specialty. That application may be viewed at:

www.cosmeticmedicalpracticesubmission.info For additional information about the ACCS, please visit: <http://www.accs.org.au/>