



The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery

Raising Standards, Protecting Patients

MEDIA RELEASE

Urgent - For immediate release

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PIP implants not toxic: UK *No reason for mass explantation*

The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery (ACCS) today welcomed a report by the UK's National Health Service that concluded that PIP breast implants were not toxic.

NHS Medical Director Sir Bruce Keogh concluded that "rigorous world-wide chemical and toxicological analyses of a wide variety of PIP implants have not shown any evidence of significant risk to human health".

The ACCS expert on PIP implants Dr Daniel Fleming noted that although the NHS report, released yesterday UK time, shares the concerns of the College and the Australian Government about the rupture rate of PIP implants, the report again confirms that there is no valid reason to support a mass explantation program.

"Sir Bruce's report confirms again that there is no scientific or medical rationale to advise patients to have their PIP implants removed as a precautionary measure. In the absence of a rupture or other complication, there is no medical reason for removal or replacement surgery," Dr Fleming said.

Dr Fleming also hoped the UK report would provide additional comfort to the thousands of women across Australia who have PIP implants.

"There will be some women who remain concerned and uncomfortable about their implants and may still wish to have them removed or replaced. That is an understandable response and should be respected provided that they've had the risks and complications of removal or replacement surgery explained to them," Dr Fleming said.

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The ACCS remains concerned about the rupture rate of PIP implants and believes that it is important that monitoring and studies be conducted to establish the actual rate of rupture. It should be remembered that at least 1 in 10 of any brand of implants will rupture in ten years.

The College has produced a series of videos for woman and their families which provide answers to important and frequently asked questions about PIP implants. The videos may be accessed via the College's website at <http://www.accs.org.au/PIP>

Background

Authorities in France have found that PIP silicone-gel implants were manufactured with a type of silicone gel that was not approved for use. These implants have been used in Australia.

The ACCS has been asked by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and the Commonwealth's Chief Medical Officer to contribute to two expert advisory panels to provide further information and to assist in the assessment of the risk that PIP implants may pose to Australian recipients.

Dr Daniel Fleming, a former College president and one of Australia's most experienced breast augmentation surgeons, sits on the panels on behalf of the College.

The current advice from the Therapeutic Goods Administration remains that there is no need to recommend routine removal or replacement of un-ruptured PIP implants.

Additional advice and information from the TGA can be viewed here:

<http://www.tga.gov.au/safety/alerts-device-breast-implants-pip-120323.htm>

**For further information or interviews, contact:
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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