



industry

RAISING STANDARDS IN THE USE OF COSMETIC INJECTABLES

THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF COSMETIC SURGERY (ACCS) HAS LAUNCHED A DIPLOMA IN COSMETIC INJECTABLES AS PART OF THEIR ONGOING DEDICATION TO RAISING STANDARDS AND PROTECTING PATIENTS IN AUSTRALIA. **CAITLIN BISHOP** REPORTS.

Cosmetic injectables, including anti-wrinkle injections and dermal fillers, are more popular than ever before. According to the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery (ACCS), Australians spend around \$300 million a year on anti-wrinkle injections alone.

For this reason, the ACCS is launching a Diploma in Cosmetic Injectables. This is offered to doctors hoping to

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gain regulated, hands-on experience and training in the use of injectables for cosmetic enhancement.

‘We’re going to raise the level of skill of the practitioners performing cosmetic injectables to a higher level,’ explains President of the ACCS Dr Soo-Keat Lim. ‘The Diploma offers training and exposure to a wide range of cases as well as experience in performing treatments with different cosmetic injectables.’

Covering all anti-wrinkles injections and most dermal fillers available, the Diploma grants doctors a comprehensive insight into the Australian cosmetic arena.

‘The ACCS is at the forefront of providing education to doctors in cosmetic medicine,’ says Adelaide cosmetic physician Dr Irene Kushelew. ‘The Diploma provides training in the use of all botulinum toxins and major fillers in Australia. It covers the different dosages required for the three different toxins available, and also demonstrates the suitable placement sites of different dermal fillers.’

The benefits of this are multi-fold, affecting both the practitioner and the client. A certification that a practitioner has undergone specific, regulated training in the use of injectables – under the provision of an independent, established body such as the ACCS – means the practitioner can “stand out from the crowd” and gives patients confidence that they are consulting with a trained, experienced provider.

‘The patient can be assured they’re undergoing treatment with an experienced injectables practitioner, with training and expertise,’ Dr Lim explains. ‘In the future, patients will be able to ask – has this practitioner completed a course with the ACCS?’

The program for certification comprises practical workshops, conferences, meetings and ongoing mentorship. The Diploma typically takes one year to complete and involves a final examination, which incorporates a practical assessment.

‘The Diploma will involve training, background information, and exposure to cases,’ Dr Lim explains. ‘Most

importantly, it will afford doctors experience in performing injectable treatments under instruction, using specific techniques chosen for their effectiveness.’

In a world of instant, easily accessible information, injectable techniques can be viewed on platforms such as Google or YouTube. Alarmingly, these video demonstrations can be created and uploaded by anyone, regardless of their training and experience.

The Diploma in Cosmetic Injectables from the ACCS presents a way for doctors to differentiate between various injectable techniques and creates an important standard in training for cosmetic injectables.

‘Very often practitioners watch videos on injectable techniques, or sit in on a conference before taking home a DVD displaying the discussed treatments,’ Dr Lim explains. ‘This is simply not good enough; practitioners need to be “hands on” with their training. Firstly, they need to be shown how to inject the right way, then perform the treatment themselves under supervision of the educator.’

‘It’s not simply a matter of knowing where to place the injection, but also knowing how much product to use and how deeply it should be delivered,’ Dr Lim continues. ‘Some muscles lie deeper than others, and the injection needs to be tailored according to this. It’s a very precise practice, and requires a skill that must be taught.’

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The ACCS is inviting all cosmetic doctors to apply for the Diploma in Cosmetic Injectables. Registration as a medical practitioner is essential, and doctors must have a minimum of three years experience as a medical practitioner to be eligible for enrolment.

As the popularity of injectables continues to rise – spanning men and women of different backgrounds and all ages – the training and experience of practitioners should be maintained at the highest level to help sustain and support this growth.

‘When I first started using anti-wrinkle injections in 1996 – the first doctor to use them in South Australia – there was no training available and I had to do my research using journals and incorporating the techniques of my colleagues,’ Dr Kushelew explains.

‘With the growing popularity of cosmetic injectables in Australia, this Diploma is an excellent resource for doctors hoping to boost the quality of their cosmetic practice. It’s really setting the benchmark for cosmetic injectable use in Australia.’ **csbm**