



The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery

Raising Standards, Protecting Patients

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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Home based cosmetic injections unsafe

The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery issued a warning today after the Therapeutic Goods Administration [advised that it had received reports](#) of home-based beauty salons administering unapproved substances purporting to be Botulinum toxin.

The College is deeply concerned about reports of un-approved substances such as those purporting to be Botulinum toxin to reduce wrinkles, a restricted drug only available through a prescription issued by a doctor, are being purchased online and imported by individuals and used in Australia in home-based or other businesses.

The ACCS strongly warns Australians against receiving cosmetic medical treatments from home based businesses which may also be using un-approved substances purchased on the Internet.

ACCS President, Dr Ron Bezic, said that medicines such as Botulin toxin should only be provided through and administered under the supervision of a qualified doctor.

“The complications arising from using such unapproved substances by untrained persons can be very serious,” Dr Bezic warned.

The College has previously relayed its concerns about these reports to the TGA and other health care regulators. “The ACCS has worked closely with the TGA about this very serious risk to patient safety. The College is pleased that its concerns are being thoroughly investigated by the TGA,” Dr Bezic said.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved only three versions of Botulinum toxin for importation and use in Australia, both of which are produced and supplied according to very strict standards.

The College strongly advises anyone considering having a cosmetic procedure to first 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”.



Fast Cosmetic Facts

- Total annual expenditure on cosmetic surgical and medical and related procedures and treatments in Australia is estimated to be \$1 billion.
- Australians annually consume more than \$350 million worth of wrinkle reduction procedures with botulinum toxin.
- There are approximately 8,000 breast augmentation surgeries performed each year in Australia and about 30,000 liposuction procedures.

Top five cosmetic procedures in Australia:

- Anti-wrinkle injections
- Fillers
- Laser and IPL
- Breast augmentation and reduction
- Liposuction

ENDS

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For further information or interviews, contact:

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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. Its Fellows and spokespeople are regularly quoted in the media and consulted by Commonwealth and state health and consumer regulators as authoritative sources of information and expert opinion.

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 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/>