

Newslinks for the week of May 5th:



Botox Procedures Changed Because Of Hepatitis Scare

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Some of the problems tied to the hepatitis exposure investigation at the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada are now having an impact on a popular way some try to stay looking young.

Action News reporter Ben Deci explains how it might effect the popular cosmetic procedure Botox.

A woman about to get the wrinkle busting serum Botox had to buy a whole bottle in order to get the treatment.

"A single patient gets a single vial now. Botox is a very expensive product," explained plastic surgeon Dr. Goesel Anson.

Some bottles of Botox have 100 units in them which is far more than the typical patient needs.

"It would be impossible for someone to take 100 units facially," said Tsang who works at The Skin Institute.

It used to be that the excess serum would get saved for another patient.

But because of hepatitis C scare and allegations of bad practices in an entirely different type of doctor's office, the rules have changed.

A State Health Division Bulletin said all physicians are directed not to administer medications from single dose vials to multiple patients.

That comes even though doctors using clean, sterile syringes for every dose cannot cross contaminate patients.

Furthermore, doctors have been drawing multiple doses from single use vials for years.

"It has been standard practice I would say across the country and across the globe," said Dr. Anson.

Back in Dr. Anson's procedure room, the patient went through less than half of the Botox she bought.

She says safety has always been a chief concern, but now the appearance of safety counts too.

"This is going to increase costs of medicine in general. We are already seeing it in surgery centers and the hospitals where the move is to use every single product on an individual basis only," said Dr. Anson.

There is some debate about whether the same patient can reuse Botox vials at a later time.



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Gas, food, Botox: what can wait?

Sabine Vollmer, Staff Writer

Penny-pinching Americans are increasingly rethinking how much they are willing to pay for pretty.

In the Triangle, cosmetic dentists, plastic surgeons and spas that offer cosmetic medical procedures have noticed a change in clients' attitudes.

Charles Ashley Mann, a cosmetic dentist in Raleigh, is booked three weeks out instead of four, and demand for veneers, the most expensive procedure, is down.

But Mann thinks his patients are reluctant rather than unable to pay \$1,100 to cover a badly stained or crooked tooth with a porcelain veneer. Demand for professional teeth whitening, a procedure that costs \$625, is up, he said.

"I think people have the money, but they don't want to spend it because of the economic atmosphere," Mann said.

Worried about declining home prices, a slowing job market and skyrocketing cost-of-living expenses, consumers are increasingly eating in, vacationing in the backyard and keeping their wheels longer.

They're also cutting back on medically unnecessary procedures from liposuction to laser eye surgery -- luxury purchases that have long been a gauge for how financially confident consumers feel.

Americans haven't been gloomier about the economy since before the beginning of the first U.S. invasion of Iraq. While the Triangle has been spared the worst of the national slowdown, the repercussions are being felt here.

Iatria, a day spa with three Triangle locations, has seen demand for gift certificates decrease in the past six months. Some clients who came every four months to get Botox injections now wait longer between visits, risking the reappearance of wrinkles, said Erika Mangrum, Iatria owner.

"But people are not giving up on their Botox," Mangrum said.

Iatria began offering discounts to regular clients a few weeks ago. The chain also closed its downtown Raleigh location, but not because of the economy, Mangrum said. Too many of the gift certificates that were bought at the downtown location were redeemed at other Iatria spas.

Dr. Michael Law, a plastic surgeon in North Raleigh, is getting fewer inquiries from new patients who are checking out providers, said his wife and practice manager, Kile. Also, callers have begun to ask about financing options, which the Laws have never offered.

At Raleigh Plastic Surgery, bookings were down in November, December and January, usually a busy time, practice administrator Nancy O'Neill said.

But business has rebounded recently, partly because of tax refunds and federal rebate checks. O'Neill wonders what will happen if the economy continues to ail after the summer, traditionally a slow time for cosmetic medical procedures.

"In the fall, that'll be the real tell-tale," O'Neill said.

Some go on spending

Following a sharp decline after the 2001 recession, the number of cosmetic medical procedures nationally climbed sharply, according to the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.

Including cosmetic dental work, laser hair removal and vision-correcting laser eye surgery, Americans spent \$18.5 billion last year to indulge their vanity. Though that total is expected to fall this year, some consumers won't stop spending on their looks, especially as the economy sours.

Research has shown that cosmetic medical procedures boost earnings in certain professions, N.C. State University economist Michael Walden said. "Looks do pay off," Walden said, especially to close deals, increase sales and make business contacts.

Jane Mansell, 57, a Raleigh real estate agent, said she never thought about skipping her laser skin treatment to reduce fine facial lines.

"In this business, you have to look your best," Mansell said.

But others are shifting their priorities. David Harmon of Market Scope, a market research firm that tracks laser eye surgery targeted to rid patients of glasses and contact lenses, projects a 17 percent decline in procedures this year.

When money is tight, Walden said, "people will look for ways to postpone luxuries and stretch their income."

HealthNewsDigest.com

Tick Tock Goes Your Beauty Clock

By Wendy Lewis, Beauty Columnist - HealthNewsDigest.com

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(HealthNewsDigest.com) - The mirror is a cruel mistress. We can't stop looking in it, but yet we hate to see ourselves. The cruelest of all are 9X lighted magnifying mirrors. These seem to be getting more powerful all the time! Past a certain age, without your glasses you can't see what you're doing, and even with your glasses, you can't do what you're seeing.

In the modern world, we are under intensified scrutiny from all sides. Cosmetic surgeons report that business is booming since the advent of HDTV (High Density Television). The latest generation of laser vision surgery has made our ability to see microscopic flaws with the naked eye approach a superhuman level. No woman over 40 wants a partner with insect-like vision!

Is it any wonder that most women start thinking about cosmetic surgery when they get depressed by what they see in the mirror? A terrible moment happens when all of a sudden you find yourself feverishly plucking out your first gray hair or having to drag up your eyelids to put on your mascara. It seems like everything started to sag practically overnight.

When Should I Start?

In the overall scheme of things, there is no ideal time frame to jump on the Botox® bandwagon, although the trend is certainly towards doing things earlier to preempt the day when everything goes south. However, you can also make an argument for waiting longer, until you feel you are ready. There is no right or wrong way. Don't feel pressured into diving into the operating theatre just because all your contemporaries are already on their third lift and thirtieth peel and you feel like you have to catch up. But if everyone in your social group looks great, you won't want to feel like the older sister either. When people around you are constantly asking, "are you tired?", or "are you feeling poorly", and you aren't either of the above; it's probably time to give it some

thought.

Doing it too early can be as much of a faux pas as doing it too late. In general, the best time to do surgery is when you can benefit from some intervention. Some women need a necklift in their late 30s, whereas others look tight and firm well into their 50s. Everything is relative. I have clients who balk at the very idea of a few millimeters of dangling skin, and others who aren't bothered at all by sagging, but hate their crow's feet and puffy eyelids.

Typically, botulinum toxin and fillers can be started in your 20s and 30s. Liposuction of the neck and fatty eye bag removal can be done early as well, as there may be a hereditary component. If hooded eyes or goiter necks run in your family, it's hard to escape your genes. Lifting the eyes, brows and neck is more commonly done in the 40s and up. But these are very general guidelines.

For the body, no rules apply. Some college girls who want their breasts enhanced for their 21st birthday. Many women wait until they have breastfed two or three children and want the body they used to have again. Another way to look at it is to do things when you can afford to, both in terms of time and finances. You may have to put off having the bump on your nose reduced till age 30, even though you have been thinking about it since you entered university.

On the other hand, age alone is rarely an absolute reason to have cosmetic surgery. If you are healthy and active in your 70s, you can still have a little nip or tuck, as long as you are medically cleared. However, your results will not be as good or last as long, due to skin ageing and the severity of your lines, wrinkles and sagging.

If I had a pound for every time I've heard a flawless 26 year old with lineless skin exclaim, "I can't imagine why women would ever stick needles in their faces!" I could have financed my facelift fund a hundred times over. My response to these naive young girls is an emphatic, "Come see me when you hit 35!" "Never say never" in fact, is the prevailing attitude when it comes to cosmetic enhancements.

Wendy Lewis & Co Ltd offers private image enhancement consultations in New York, and in London, and via phone and email from all over the world, for both men and women. She is the author of 10 beauty books, including Plastic Makes Perfect: The Complete Cosmetic Beauty Guide. www.wlbeauty.com, www.plasticmakesperfectbook.com

La Fin du trout pout: Why French doctors are the new superstars of cosmetic surgery

By LEAH HARDY - Last updated at 12:45pm on 5th May 2008

From the moment her Dior pumps touched British soil, the nation's females became obsessed with the model-turned first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy.

We loved her poise, couture wardrobe and glossy mane of hair. But most of all we wondered how, though in her 40s, she manages to look quite so fresh-faced.

Were her glowing complexion, girlishly plump cheeks and wrinkle-free forehead the result of lucky genes and clean living, or had she, perhaps, had a little subtle help from the needle and syringe?

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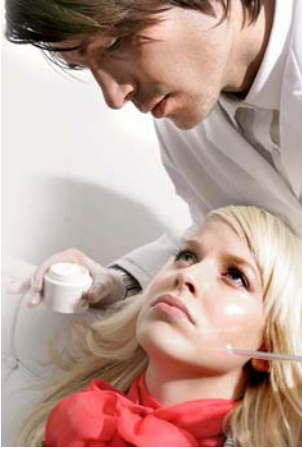


Brit Ekland, left, with her new trout pout and right, Carla Bruni with her girlishly plump cheeks and wrinkle free forehead

She is, after all, rumoured to be a client of the Parisian cosmetic doctor Bernard Hertzog, famous for his subtle ways with Botox, complexion-brightening mesotherapy and fillers that restore fullness to thinning faces.

Hertzog has been tempted away from his Paris clinic to spend a day a week as the star attraction at the newly opened BA Clinic in London, which employs French doctors to bring the best Gallic antiageing treatments to Britain.

He joins a number of French cosmetic doctors dividing their time between the two capitals, who are attracting a glittering clientele.



At Hertzog's consulting rooms in a discreetly anonymous office building in Knightsbridge, patients - who include members of the Royal Family, socialites and actresses - trip in and out on Louboutin heels.

He has been lured to London by French-born businesswoman and socialite Clarissa Nadler, who is also a client.

She believes the cosmetic doctors from her homeland are the best in the business.

"French women want the best possible result, and, unlike British women, they complain if they don't get it," she says.

"Also, French women insist on a subtle result. Women of 40 are happy to be their age and don't want to look like young girls, but they want to look like a wonderful 40."



London clients of French doctors rave about their subtlety.

French women don't want trout pouts or the Botox-induced startled expressions of their U.S. counterparts.

They also believe Parisian doctors combine an artistic eye and Gallic charm.

"Of course, they all love a charming Frenchman, and Frenchmen tend to love women of all ages," says Nadler.

Top celebrity favourite Jean-Louis Sebagh, who is said to include Madonna among his clients, is one of the first French doctors to split his time between Paris and London.

He points out that while there are plenty of good British cosmetic doctors and that simply being Gallic is no guarantee of quality, the French were the pioneers of anti-ageing treatments.

In the Fifties, French doctors invented mesotherapy - rejuvenating injections of vitamins into the face and body - and endermologie - a slimming treatment.

"We have an entire menu of procedures for age maintenance, which won't stop the ageing process, but can very much slow it down," says Sebagh.

Here are the Fabulous Five French doctors practising in Britain:

DR BERNARD HERTZOG

He studied sculpture before medicine, which fans claim gives him a better understanding of the human face.

Hertzog uses the French hyaluronic acid filler Surgiderm in a mesotherapytype skin rejuvenating treatment called Surgiglow.

To eliminate deeper lines and fill out ageing faces, he uses his latest invention, the 'magic needle' - a long, flexible device that means several areas of the face can be treated with a single injection, which reduces bruising.

Fillers from £450 a syringe.

CLIENTELE: At least one member of the Royal Family and the cream of French actresses, including, it is rumoured, Isabelle Adjani.

CONTACT: The BA Institute, 64 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7JF. Tel: 020 7351 2040; www.ba-institute.com

DR JEAN-LOUIS SEBAGH

Known as The Botox King, the charming Sebagh, who divides his time between Paris and London, is a trained cosmetic surgeon who devotes himself to non-invasive techniques.

He is highly experienced with fillers and has recently developed what he calls Dream Sculpture, where he uses his expertise to re- sculpt the face, using fillers such as Restylane SubQ and the French filler Voluma, to replace lost volume around the eyes and cheeks.

This takes just 30 minutes, but creates the effect of a face-lift and lasts up to 15 months. From £800 a treatment.

CLIENTELE: A roll call of the rich and famous, including Sting's wife Trudie Styler, Madonna and socialite Normandie Keith. Cindy Crawford has collaborated on a beauty range with him.

CONTACT: The French Medical Cosmetic Company, 25 Wimpole Street, London W1M 7AD. Tel: 020 7637 0548.

DR JULES-JACQUES NABET

Intensely French, discreet and sympathetic, and he uses his 20 years of experience in cosmetic medicine to advise women about the best way to rejuvenate their looks rather than just giving them the treatment they *think* they need.

He has pioneered the use of Carboxy therapy, which uses carbon dioxide gas to dissolve fat, rejuvenate the skin and reduce scarring, including stretch marks.

He has also developed the Y Lift, which uses a cannula - a thin needle - to fill the cheekbone area, so lifting the jawline and creating a youthful Y-shaped face.

CLIENTELE: Vogue models, numerous TV personalities and a host of actors. He even treats other cosmetic surgeons, particularly with Botox.

CONTACT: Dr Nabet's Medical Rooms, Royal Garden Hotel, 2-24 Kensington High Street, London W8 4PT. Tel: 020 7938 2195.

DR DANIEL SISTER

After graduating from the Paris Medical School in 1974, Sister worked in Paris, but now lives in London.

He has an unusually holistic approach to ageing, using the usual Botox, fillers, lasers, Carboxy Therapy and Smart-Lipo alongside more natural ways of fighting ageing from the inside.

He takes a complementary approach to weight loss and nutrition, including homeopathy, supplements of natural hormones

including the anti-ageing hormone DHEA, vitamins and minerals.

CLIENTELE: Notting Hill yummy mummies, celebrities, French expats in London.

CONTACT: BeautyWorksWest, Lambton Place, Westbourne Grove, Notting Hill, London W11 2SH. Tel: 020 7221 2248; www.drdsister.com

DR GEORGES ROMAN

With a background as a doctor in general practice and A&E, plus training as a psychotherapist, Roman is famous for his sympathetic personality as well as his facial rejuvenation techniques.

He is popular with nervous patients and likes to match his work to a client's personality as well as her features.

"In the U.S., they subscribe to one particular beauty aesthetic, so everyone ends up looking very similar. That's ridiculous," he says.

"We're human beings with different characters, physically and emotionally. I enhance the charm of each patient, but I don't go too far, as the result has to be invisible to be successful."

Roman is an expert in fat shrinking mesotherapy (from £200) and laser treatments.

He has just introduced the Lipolyse laser, which works in a similar way to SmartLipo, but uses a more powerful wavelength, giving better results, with more tightening of the skin.

For larger areas, such as the hips and stomach, two to three sessions are recommended, at £1,500 a session.

CLIENTELE: Many international socialites, celebrities and ladies who lunch.

CONTACT: Devonshire Medical Clinic, 43 Devonshire Street, London W1G 7AL. Tel: 020 7323 2123.