



MEDIA RELEASE

XX DECEMBER 2016

CPCA CALLS FOR TIGHTER REGULATION FOR LASER AND IPL TREATMENTS

The Cosmetic Physicians College of Australasia (CPCA) is increasingly concerned about public safety following another story (published by a West Australian newspaper) about patients suffering serious injuries from treatments using intense pulsed light (IPL) equipment conducted by someone without the appropriate training.

Laser and IPL devices provide a good treatment option for a number of conditions and medical professionals with the appropriate training, in general, achieve very good results. However, their use by people with little or no training presents a clear danger to patients.

Common injuries seen include permanent skin discolouration, burns and scars. These injuries are often caused by the use of inappropriate power levels for the skin type they are attempting to treat.

“Worse still, IPL/laser treatments can change the appearance of melanomas or other skin cancers and lead to delayed diagnosis, putting lives at risk,” CPCA spokesperson, Dr Cath Porter said.

There are currently no uniform regulatory framework or standards in Australia applying to the operation and use of lasers and IPL for cosmetic or skin medicine.

“We are calling for national uniform regulation in this area with requirements that people must be appropriately trained and carry professional indemnity insurance. In the interim, we encourage individuals interested in laser or IPL procedures to visit a doctor with an interest in this area to find out what the various treatment options are and to help ensure that any sinister skin problems are detected and appropriately treated,” Dr Porter said.

The CPCA is currently participating in a working group convened by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) to examine options for better regulation of IPL and lasers to improve patient safety.

Patients should be aware that lasers and IPL machines are medical equipment. Anyone considering such treatments should visit a qualified and skilled operator.

To find a qualified doctor with a focus on cosmetic medicine visit www.cPCA.net.au

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About the Cosmetic Physicians College of Australasia

The CPCA represents the largest body of doctors who perform non- or minimally-invasive cosmetic medical treatments in Australia. Incorporated in October 2014, the CPCA emerged from an earlier organisation - the Cosmetic Physicians Society of Australasia (CPSA).

The CPCA extended the role of the CPSA by taking the form of a traditional college with regards to education, training and ethical practice standards. The CPCA's objectives include developing and maintaining high standards of learning, skills and conduct in cosmetic medicine to help safeguard the public. The CPCA will also support public education and awareness of the benefits of cosmetic medicine.

For further information or to request an interview with a CPCA spokesperson, please contact Res Publica:

Baden Parker-Brown | bparkerbrown@respublica.com.au | 02 8297 1512