



ETHICS

ETHICO- LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS IN COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY IN THE ERA OF SOCIAL MEDIA: THE U.K APPROACH

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Introduction: There has been a growing demand for non-surgical cosmetic interventions as this sector has had an estimated increase from £720 million in 2005 to £3.6 billion in 2015. The Nuffield Council on Bioethics has attributed this to social media and celebrity culture, raising concerns regarding the ethical and societal implications. The rise of other practitioners such as non-dermatologists, nurses and aestheticians performing these procedures make the ethico-legal landscape even more blurred.

Non-surgical cosmetic interventions in the UK, have been unregulated until now. Following a review by the UK Department of Health, the Joint Council of Cosmetic Practice (JCCP) was created which is a registered body for cosmetic practitioners. They commissioned an independent group consisting of Dermatologists and Plastic surgeons, the Cosmetic Practice Standards Authority (CPSA), to set standards for each treatment modality focusing on patient safety in order to benchmark practitioners.

Objective: To review the ethico-legal considerations in cosmetic dermatology reported in literature and how these have been addressed globally.

Methods: A literature search on MEDLINE via PubMed Interface, Google Scholar and OVID from July 2000 to 2018.

Results: The search identified 35 papers of which 9 were relevant. Majority of these papers were published by US based dermatologists and included letters, expert's opinion and a review of the statements by the American Academy of Dermatology. Issues around consent, negligence and commercial interests are raised. There is a distinct absence of evidence and high-quality data regarding these procedures and addressing these issues.

Conclusions: Cosmetic Dermatology will continue to expand as the interest in bodily appearance is a universal social phenomenon. Patient welfare, their trust and the physician-patient relationship should be of utmost priority. As dermatologists, we should collaborate on an international level to develop standards, such as those by the CPSA to enable us to



ABSTRACT BOOK

ABSTRACTS



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respond to these concerns.



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