

ADA NSW POSITION ON THE USE OF COSMETIC INJECTIONS IN DENTAL PRACTICE

Background

Cosmetic injections using anti-wrinkle products, such as Botox® and dermal fillers are injected under the skin to reduce the appearance of facial wrinkles or lines and can also be used to enhance facial contours by adding volume to cheeks and lips and to improve the appearance of scars. Injections into the wrong area of the face can have serious medical consequences.

During university education in dentistry, the study of the anatomy and physiology of the head and neck places registered dentists in an ideal position to build the necessary skills and experience to be able to provide cosmetic injection procedures. The Dental Board of Australia (DBA) sets out clear requirements and expectations for dentists who use anti-wrinkle and dermal filler injections in their dental practice.¹ The DBA specifies that registered dentists must only perform dental procedures for which they have been:

- educated and trained and are competent to provide,
- hold appropriate professional indemnity insurance² and
- meet the requirements for code of conduct³ and recency of practice⁴

The DBA also specifies that dentists must:

- adhere to the relevant State and Territory Drugs and Poisons legislation and regulations and
- understand and comply with the requirements of the Therapeutic Goods legislation and other relevant laws with regard to the advertising and approved uses of these products.¹

adansw.com.au

ADA NSW Position

Dentists in NSW and the ACT with adequate training, experience and recency of practice specific to anti-wrinkle and dermal filler injection procedures, are well placed to provide these cosmetic procedures for patients following the guidance of the DBA.¹ This includes complying with the legal acquisition, storage and disposal of anti-wrinkle and dermal filler products as outlined in the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966.⁵

ADA NSW believes that in order to protect consumers, anti-wrinkle and dermal filler injections are procedures that should only be undertaken by experienced and qualified registered health practitioners and should **not** be carried out by other beauty or cosmetic personnel. The products used are prescription-only products and only products approved by the Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) should be administered.

Prior to cosmetic injections being undertaken, patients must be adequately informed about the procedure, including the costs, the product to be used and any possible adverse effects that may occur. Dentists and patients need to communicate effectively to understand expectations and reasonable outcomes. As with all dental procedures, informed consent, including financial consent must be gained from patients and documented prior to undergoing cosmetic injection treatment. It is important to ensure that patients are supported following cosmetic injection procedures, especially if any side effects are experienced.

Good fact sheets and information for the public are provided by both:

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/Publications/Cosmetic-surgery-and-procedures/Injectables.aspx> and

Therapeutics Goods Administration <https://www.tga.gov.au/community-qa/things-consider-undergoing-procedures-involving-dermal-fillers>

adansw.com.au

Additional Facts:

- Dentists must comply with the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966 on the approved uses and “off-label” use of anti-wrinkle and dermal fillers.
- Dentists must to comply with the legal requirements around the advertising regulations of S4 drugs including anti-wrinkle and dermal fillers outlined in the therapeutic goods legislation and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency “Guidelines for advertising regulated health services”⁶⁻⁸
- “Thread lift” products and procedures should be subject to additional regulations and only be provided by those registered medical practitioners and dentists with advanced surgical training and experience.

Reference Documents:

1. <https://www.dentalboard.gov.au/codes-guidelines/faq/botulinum-toxin-and-dermal-fillers.aspx>
2. <https://Dental-Board---Registration-standard---Professional-indemnity-insurance-arrangements.PDF>
3. [https://Downloads/Dental-Board---Code-of-conduct%20\(3\).PDF](https://Downloads/Dental-Board---Code-of-conduct%20(3).PDF)
4. <https://www.dentalboard.gov.au/registration/recency-of-practice.aspx>
5. <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/1966/31>
6. <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/Publications/Advertising-resources/Legislation-guidelines/Advertising-guidelines.aspx>
7. <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2009-045#sec.133>
8. <https://Downloads/Dental-Board---Further-information-on-advertising-therapeutic-claims.PDF>
9. <https://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Policies/Cosmetic-medical-and-surgical-procedures-guidelines.aspx>
10. <https://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Policies/FAQ/FAQ-guidelines-for-cosmetic-procedures.aspx>

adansw.com.au

Australian Dental Association
NSW Branch ABN 34 000 021 232

Address
L1, 1 Atchison Street,
St Leonards NSW 2065

Phone
02 8436 9900

Email
adansw@adansw.com.au