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Recent Deaths Following Hair-Removal Procedures Worry Consumers

Facial Plastic Surgeon Dr. Henri P. Gaboriau Offers Guidance to Alleviate Safety Fears

SAMMAMISH, Wash. – (April 20, 2005) – Armed with accurate information, patients seeking medical skincare treatments are more relaxed and confident before undergoing cosmetic procedures. Knowing what questions to ask is the first step.

Two recent deaths following hair-removal procedures at North American clinics have many consumers worried about the safety of drugs used and the level of care available. * In the cases of the deceased, both were unsupervised when they fell into comas after applying anesthetic cream containing the drug lidocaine, which was administered by non-medical professionals.

Dr. Henri P. Gaboriau, of the Sammamish Center for Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, is a Board Certified/Fellowship Trained Facial Plastic Surgeon and one of only three doctors in western Washington who is a Botox Cosmetic National Education Faculty (meaning he is qualified to teach other physicians how to administer Botox). Gaboriau advises the following:

- Before undergoing any cosmetic procedures, patients should fully understand the products used, their quality and authenticity.

In the state of Washington there is no clear law enforcing who can inject Botox or fillers. It is **crucial** that a medical professional, meaning a doctor (MD), registered nurse (RN), nurse practitioner (ARNP) or physician's assistant (PA) administer Botox or filler injections, as opposed to a spa technician.

- Inquire about the training of the medical professional that supervises the Medi-Spa. Ideally, the professional should be a Medical Doctor.

Foremost, patients should understand the difference between medi-spas and day spas. Medi-spas, facilities that provide medical treatments, such as microdermabrasion, laser hair removal and glycolic acid peels, should have a certified medical doctor available on-site to oversee procedures and administration of pharmaceuticals used. Day spas cannot purchase and use medical-grade products whereas Medi-Spas may do so under an MD license.

A native of France, Dr. Henri P. Gaboriau received his medical degree from Tulane University Medical School in New Orleans, Louisiana. He also completed his medical studies in Paris XII University Medical School in Creteil, France. His residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery was completed at Tulane University Medical School in New Orleans and he completed his Fellowship in Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Washington in Seattle. An award-winning surgeon, Dr. Gaboriau is a member of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

The Sammamish Center for Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery is an Eastside facility featuring a state-of-the-art Ambulatory Surgical Center and a Medi-Spa. The Center provides a full range of services including microdermabrasion, European facials, pre/post surgery treatments, laser hair removal and glycolic peels.
www.sammamishfacial.com

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Editors Note: Dr. Henri P. Gaboriau is available for interviews

*Source: Kapes, Beth "Who's managing med-spas?" Surgery Times Vol. 8 #3 (2005): 1, 11

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