

Speech from Dr. Yeung Chi Keung on behalf of the Hong Kong Society of Dermatology and Venereology

Our Society's objectives are to promote standard of skin health and care in Hong Kong and to protect public interest regarding delivery of dermatological care.

For delivery of cosmetic procedures, patients' safety and consumer right should be in top priority. They should be adequately informed of the risk, the expected benefits, alternatives of the procedures.

For those aesthetic procedures involving median to high risk, assessment and diagnosis should best be done by doctors, with respect to the health implication.

Any cosmetic procedures that involve injection, breaking the skin beyond epidermis with infection risk, and use of energy-based devices that can burn the skin, cause scarring and leaving permanent marks are considered to be medium to high risk. These should be done by doctors who are trained to make proper clinical assessment and diagnosis, to choose the proper procedures and devices and to offer appropriate care and assessment before, during and after the procedures.

For any centers or facilities performing medium to high risk procedures, there should be proper infection control and recording of details of the procedures done, good documentation of information given to the patient regarding adequate explanation of the benefits and the risk by obtaining signed informed consent by patients. There should be mechanism to handle complaints. There should be regulation of the centres or facilities with registered cosmetic procedures based on the standard, safety, credential of the operating staff.

In-charge and responsible personnel of the centres carrying such procedures should be doctors whose practice is governed by the regulation of Hong Kong Medical Council. The registered person must ensure that the persons providing care or treatment to service users have the qualifications, competence, skills and experience to do so safely. Only relevant regulated professionals with the appropriate qualifications may plan and prescribe care and treatment.