



The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery

Raising Standards, Protecting Patients

MEDIA RESPONSE

For immediate release

10 May 2017

The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery (ACCS) is aware of the media story concerning the risk of breast implants and cancer specifically, Breast Implant Associated Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (BIA-ALCL).

The College advises:

1. There have been no new findings concerning this disorder since the TGA update to patients in December 2016 <https://www.tga.gov.au/alert/breast-implants>
2. BIA-ALCL is not, and has nothing to do with, breast cancer.
3. The risk of a woman with implants developing BIA-ALCL is, at worst, less than 1 in 1000.
4. This compares with the risk of any Australian woman, with or without implants, of developing breast cancer of 1 in 8
5. Most patients who do develop BIA-ALCL are cured by the removal of their implants and the membrane surrounding the implants without any other treatment.
6. Women with breast implants do not need to take any action unless they develop obvious swelling of one or both breasts or a lump. Most women with swelling of the breasts do not have BIA-ALCL but should be checked to confirm this.
7. Patients with swelling or a lump should consult with their GP or surgeon for appropriate investigations.
8. The ACCS BIA-ALCL task force is continuing to work actively with the TGA and other professional bodies, in Australia and internationally, to further the understanding of this disease. Updates will be provided when genuinely new information becomes available.
9. The College has produced an information video for patients which is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGQAuy7a5To>

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About the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery

Established in 1999, the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery (ACCS) is a not-for-profit, multi-disciplinary fellowship based body of Cosmetic Surgeons, cosmetic physicians, plastic surgeons, general surgeons, maxillofacial surgeons, dermatologists, ear nose and throat surgeons, ophthalmologists and other doctors and health care practitioners who practice in cosmetic medicine and surgery.

The primary goal of the ACCS is to ensure the safe provision of cosmetic medicine and cosmetic surgical procedures to the Australian community through the supply of appropriately trained and certified health care practitioners. Its Fellows and spokespeople are regularly quoted in the media and consulted by Commonwealth and state health and consumer regulators as authoritative sources of information and expert opinion.

The ACCS is the only medical college which provides education and training leading to fellowship specifically in cosmetic medicine and surgery. Fellows of the College are medical doctors who have completed post-graduate education and training and demonstrated competency specifically in cosmetic medicine and surgery. To become an ACCS Fellow, doctors must typically complete a minimum of 12 years of medical and surgical education and training.

For additional information about the ACCS, please visit: <http://www.accs.org.au/>