



The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery

Raising Standards, Protecting Patients

MEDIA RELEASE

Urgent - For immediate release

10 March 2012

ACCS welcomes Government MRI funding for PIP breast implant patients; MRI study of PIP implants urgently needed

The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery welcomes today's announcement by the Commonwealth Minister for Health Tanya Plibersek MP that women who have breast implants manufactured by Poly Implant Prothese, or PIP, will be able to access Medicare rebates for MRIs to determine whether their implants are structurally sound.

Authorities in France have said that PIP silicone-gel implants are manufactured with a type of silicone gel that was not approved for use and may tend to rupture. These implants have been used in Australia.

The College has previously encouraged the Government to take this action and, in a letter to the Minister for Health, has recommended that it fund a study of the results of MRIs to determine the rate of rupture of PIP implants as compared to the approximately 10 percent in ten year rate at which other implants may rupture.

The College has been asked by the TGA to contribute to an expert panel to provide further information and assist in the assessment of the risk that the PIP implants may pose to Australian women who have had them implanted. Dr Daniel Fleming, a former College president and one of Australia's most experienced breast augmentation surgeons, sits on the expert panel on behalf of the College.

"The Health Minister's announcement today is very welcome news for several reasons. First, it will help doctors provide the best advice to women who have had PIP implants, Dr Fleming said.



“Second it will help those women make informed decisions about the best way to manage any additional risks that their implants may present.

“Last, the College hopes that the Government will use this opportunity to fund an MRI study of patients, which will provide health authorities such as the TGA and the Chief Medical Officer, with important evidence – lacking at present – upon which to provide additional appropriate guidance,” Dr Fleming said.

Dr Fleming advises anyone who believes that they may have these implants that they should not be unduly alarmed. They should contact their doctor or surgeon for further advice.

**For further information or interviews, contact:
Alan RM Jones m. 0420 757 009**

* * *

The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery is a multi-disciplinary body of general surgeons, plastic surgeons, dermatologists, ear nose and throat surgeons, ophthalmologists and other doctors who specialise in cosmetic surgery. The goal of the ACCS is to ensure the safe provision of cosmetic surgery and cosmetic medical procedures to the Australian general community through supply of appropriately trained and certified medical practitioners. The College has made a full application to the Australian Medical Council to have Cosmetic Medical Practice recognised as a new Medical Specialty. That application may be viewed at:

www.cosmeticmedicalpracticesubmission.info