

Your Health & Safety Come First

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Do you know that your skin is one of your body's major organ systems? Let's say you have a problem with your circulatory system (heart, blood, and blood vessels). Would you seek treatment from someone with superficial medical education, training and experience? No. You would care too much about your health and safety. Unfortunately, some people don't give the same high concern about health and safety to their skin—perhaps because the skin is visible, familiar, and seemingly resilient. However, serious danger lurks when people have their skin treated or injected at malls, salons, and day spas where procedures are often conducted by unsupervised non-core providers. Everything goes well until something goes wrong.

Sometimes, potential patients of cosmetic treatments such as Botox[®] or Dysport[®] injections, dermal fillers, chemical peels and laser rejuvenation do not realize such treatments are actually *medical* procedures with serious associated risks and potential complications.

Patients can experience side effects such as burns, scars, infections and pigmentation disorders when undergoing certain cosmetic treatments performed by unsupervised non-physicians or physicians who do not specialize in dermatology. Inadequately trained providers do not have the qualifications to determine and perform the proper treatment, nor can they properly respond to serious complications that may arise.

Patients are urged to seek the expertise of a qualified medical/cosmetic provider who has had advanced training, experience, and actual results that reflect demonstrated dexterity and artistry. In this regard, dermatologists and dermatologic surgeons are rigorously trained in anatomy, physiology and skin color so that complications can

be avoided or recognized at the earliest stages to prevent serious or permanent problems. With comprehensive expertise pertaining to the health and function of your skin, your board certified dermatologist is best equipped to help you fully understand your treatment options, the associated risks and relative benefits of various approaches—and can most safely perform your treatment. At Derick Dermatology, patients may view their procedures and the expected results in advance, thanks to a high-tech simulation camera.

SAFEGUARDING YOUR HEALTH & SAFETY

Here are some important steps to take before undergoing cosmetic treatments:

- When choosing a provider for your cosmetic treatments, inquire about that professional's qualifications, medical training and clinical experience. Don't assume anything.
- Don't be fooled by lower prices designed to attract business. Often low pricing comes with a "catch" such as a small discount for a portion of a treatment that altogether will cost much more. More importantly, you may endure more cost and pain in the long run if things do not go as expected from treatments by an unqualified provider.
- Always ask to see "before and after" photographs for the procedure you are interested in obtaining. Make sure these photographs depict procedures actually performed by your provider, and are not images provided by a marketing company.
- Ask questions about your procedure and its suitability for you and your skin type. Inquire about your options, the risks and expected results. Find out who will be conducting your procedure and what will be the course of action if there are any complications.



Dr. Amy Derick is a board certified medical and cosmetic dermatologist in Barrington. She is the founder and director of Derick Dermatology, LLC, which serves the dermatologic needs of nearly 22,000 patients throughout the Chicago region since 2006. She is an Instructor of Clinical Dermatology at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. Dr. Derick is a featured speaker at Cosmetic Bootcamps[®] around the country, where she trains fellow dermatologists, facial plastic surgeons, plastic surgeons and ophthalmologists to safely and properly perform non-surgical cosmetic treatments. Dr. Derick was honored with the 2011 William Fremd High School Distinguished Graduate Award.

For two patient safety videos featuring Dr. Amy Derick:

→ *Trust Your Dermatologic Surgeon -*
VISIT: <http://www.asds.net/2011videos/>

→ *Who Should Be Providing Your Cosmetic Treatment? -*
VISIT: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lprGCjmlxow>

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- A properly trained potential provider should ask you several questions about your medical history to find out if there could be any complicating issues affecting the outcome of the treatment, including allergies to medication, previous surgeries and family history.
- You are in the driver's seat, so trust your instincts and only go with the most reputable provider.

In the quest for a more youthful, beautiful appearance, don't risk your health, safety or happiness. Choose the most skilled medical professional to perform your cosmetic treatment. To find a qualified dermatologist, visit: www.aad.org or www.asds.net.