

Beware of the 'botox on a bike' brigade, women told

By JENNY HOPE - 2nd October 2007



Having the jab: Quality of treatment varies

Women are at risk from cowboy cosmetic practices that provide Botox 'on the back of a bike', claim Britain's plastic surgeons.

Treatments such as Botox are available from hairdressers whose only qualification is a weekend's training course in a hotel, it is claimed.

Non-surgical treatments such as fat-dissolving injections have never been properly tested, while some 'facelifts' simply involve liberal use of filler materials designed to pad out wrinkles.

The British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons accused the Government of allowing a 'bike' brigade, with a 'Wild West' approach to flourish by failing to bring in regulation.

Douglas McGeorge, president of the association, said unscrupulous practitioners could 'squirt' Botox into women whether it was appropriate or not.

The beauty industry is full of 'aestheticians' who with minimal or no training are giving women treatments that could go wrong, have side-effects or are unproven, he told the association's annual meeting in London.

He said women spend thousands a with little to show for it, often buying products from the Internet which are not licensed in the UK. He added: 'To foster a "Wild West" approach is not only an affront to reputable professionals who follow the rules, but ultimately creates an unsafe environment for the public.'

Consultant plastic surgeon Norman Waterhouse said papers advertise Botox 'at your place', where the anti-wrinkle injections could be provided on the doorstep.

He said: 'This kind of service means a motorcycle courier will come and jab you. But it's just women told part of an industry selling products that have no trial data on efficacy or long-term safety.'

Women can have their breasts enlarged in just 30 minutes - and go out to dinner the same evening, a U.S. surgeon has claimed.

John Tebbetts, a Texan plastic surgeon, says he has honed the technique over the past decade on around 4,000 women.

Patients have their breast skin and tissue measured in advance so the procedure can be carried out quicker and with less damage.

The augmentation operation costs £5,000, Dr Tebbetts told the association meeting.