

Covid Vaccination and Cosmetic Injecting

29th March 2021

COVID VACCINATION & COSMETIC INJECTING – WHAT IS SAFE?

Australia began its COVID vaccination program on 21st February 2021 and has vaccinated in excess of 300,000 people to date. With both the Pfizer and the Astra Zeneca vaccines being used, the activity is expected to ramp up with the locally produced Astra Zeneca vaccine being approved for use. The Australasian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons (ASAPS) and the Australasian Society of Cosmetic Dermatologists (ASCD) have appraised the situation, considered the evidence and issued this advice to the Health Practitioners who treat patients with cosmetic injectables.

COVID VACCINATION FACTS

1. Both the Pfizer and the Astra Zeneca vaccines have been approved for use in Australia.
2. Both the Pfizer and Astra Zeneca vaccines require 2 doses.
3. The time interval between doses for the Pfizer vaccine is a minimum of 21 days.
4. The time interval between doses for the Astra Zeneca vaccine is a minimum of 4 – 12 weeks.

CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS

Sooner or later you will encounter three categories of patients who present for cosmetic treatment:

1. Those who have either had their first dose of COVID vaccination.
2. Those who have had the first dose but awaiting the second done.
3. Those who have received both the first and second dose.

POST-VACCINATION SYMPTOMS

Please bear in mind that patients may experience symptoms after the vaccination. These include fevers, chills and malaise that could cause clinical confusion.

Less than 1% of people experience fever after the first dose. 15% of people will experience fever after the second dose.

Most post-vaccination symptoms resolve within 3 – 7 days of vaccination.

COVID VACCINE AND ELECTIVE COSMETIC SURGERY

In February 2021, ASAPS advised its members about elective surgery and COVID vaccination. ASAPS' advice was based on recommendations of best practice guidelines from the UK Royal Colleges of Surgeons and the Mayo Clinic, USA and recommended that:

- An elective Cosmetic Surgery procedure is not a contraindication to routine COVID vaccination.
- It is recommended that the date of surgery is separated from the date of vaccination by at least 1 week to avoid clinical confusion.

ASAPS – ASCD ADVICE ON COSMETIC INJECTING

1. The risk profile with respect to timing procedures in patients undergoing Covid-19 vaccinations may vary between BTX, Dermal Fillers, and Laser and Energy-Based Devices.
2. The risk for BTX and Laser and Energy-Based Devices is low and there is not enough evidence to support a recommendation to change practice.
3. We recommend that you exercise caution and defer treatment if symptoms develop after vaccination.
4. Tissue Fillers, on the other hand, appear to have a small risk profile.
5. For tissue filler injections, we would recommend an interval of at least 2 weeks before and 2 weeks after COVID vaccination.
6. Previous treatment with fillers is not a contraindication to being vaccinated.

REFERENCES

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines>

<https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/coronavirus/vaccinated-patients-guidance/>

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