

**Letter to the Editor – *New Beauty*
November 24, 2020**

Dear Editor,

The American Society for Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS) requests a retraction of the article, "[New Study Highlights the First Thing You Should Check When Choosing a Plastic Surgeon](#)." Although we agree with the importance of the patient safety and truth in advertising message, the article and the study it references inaccurately define dermatologists as practicing "out of scope" for any surgery performed outside of Mohs surgery or skin lesions.

Board certified dermatologists have a minimum of seven years of medical training. Dermatologists certified by the American Board of Dermatology, the American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada – along with facial plastic surgeons and oculoplastic surgeons – are recognized as part of the Core Four specialties that are, like plastic surgery, involved in the science, practice and teaching of aesthetic surgery. We disagree with the statement that dermatologists are practicing out of scope if they perform a blepharoplasty, liposuction or rhytidectomy. To say dermatologists "perform complex aesthetic procedures outside the scope of their primary residency training" is simply untrue and a sweeping mischaracterization.

Dermatologic surgeons have been the pioneers contributing significantly to the history of reconstructive and cosmetic surgery advancing this field. For example, tumescent liposuction was developed by a board certified dermatologist, ASDS member Jeffrey Klein, MD, in the early 80s with local tumescent anesthesia, and it has been shown to be the safest method of fat removal.

Scalpels are not the only instrument used in performing these surgical procedures. Dermatologists led the development of devices, like fractional ablative CO₂ laser, as an excellent scalpel-free eye-lift (blepharoplasty) procedure. Dermatologists have also pioneered significant advances in combined laser-assisted liposuction and minimally invasive skin tightening treatments improving skin laxity of the face and neck (rhytidectomy) with excellent safety and efficacy.

[Data proves](#) dermatology was identified as the leading specialty for the majority of non-invasive and minimally invasive cosmetic procedures and provided the greatest contribution to botulinum toxin treatments for rhytides, injectable fillers, laser treatments, chemical peels and noninvasive body contouring. Further, for seven consecutive years in the [ASDS Consumer Survey on Cosmetic Dermatologic Procedures](#), dermatologists have ranked as the number one influencer among 15 factors that impact consumers' decisions to have a cosmetic procedure and the physician of choice in five of 10 treatment categories.

We encourage you to review this content with the *New Beauty* Medical Advisory Board. Three of your sitting Board Members are long standing ASDS members who are board certified dermatologists and highly respected experts on aesthetic and cosmetic procedures.

Let's work together to uphold your mission of providing trusted information based upon ethical standards and scientific integrity.

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