

**Letter to the Editor – CNN  
December 27, 2017**

Dear Editor,

The December 21 article “[Cosmetic skin fillers rise in popularity, and complications](#)” features rare complications associated with soft-tissue filler treatments, especially if performed by an untrained provider. The American Society for Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS) agrees wholeheartedly that consumers should seek board-certified dermatologists for these procedures.

The study – Who are the pioneers? – featured in the March 2016 issue of “*Dermatologic Surgery*” provides objective, powerful evidence demonstrating the unmatched contributions dermatologists have made in pioneering and mastering non-invasive and minimally invasive cosmetic procedures. The study notes dermatology as the leading specialty in hyaluronic acid and poly-L lactic acid fillers for wrinkles, as well as laser treatments, chemical peels and noninvasive body contouring.

ASDS dermatologist members performed over 1.35 million soft-tissue filler procedures in 2016 with the use of fillers for those under 30 years old doubling in the last year, according to the 2016 ASDS Survey on Dermatologic Procedures. This growth reflects the expanding interest younger consumers have in taking a proactive anti-aging approach to the health and beauty of their skin.

In addition, for the fifth year in a row dermatologists ranked first among 14 factors influencing the decision to have a cosmetic procedure, as found in the 2017 ASDS Consumer Survey on Dermatologic Procedures. Of the 11 factors influencing the selection of a practitioner, consumers consistently rated highly the choices involving physician expertise. The specialty in which the physician is board-certified and the level of the physician’s licensure are ranked as top factors.

Patients are confident in the expertise and training board-certified dermatologists offer, and ASDS members are the leading skin experts committed to providing safe, quality care. More information and a referral service to board-certificated dermatologists can be found at [asds.net](http://asds.net).



Lisa Donofrio, MD  
President  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery