

**Letter to the Editor – *New York Times*
May 7, 2019**

Dear Editor,

“Are you Ready for Drive-Thru Botox?” very regrettably minimizes cosmetic medical treatments when in fact these are medical procedures. The injection of pharmaceuticals for reduction of the visible signs of aging is not comparable to a blow dry. There are real risks that can result in serious complications when procedures are administered by practitioners without appropriate training and with limited physician supervision. Skin cancers can be missed, and burns and injuries can occur. A recent study in *Dermatologic Surgery* found more adverse effects when cosmetic procedures are performed outside the traditional medical setting by non-physicians.

Your readers should know that they can instead choose a board-certified dermatologist trained in facial anatomy and skin health. In fact, dermatologists have pioneered and perfected minimally invasive cosmetic procedures such as laser treatments, injectable neuromodulators and many dermal fillers.

The drive-thru cosmetic treatment message is a disservice to consumers. Our Society supports on-site physician supervision in the interest of patient care and safety. We encourage your readers to visit asds.net for more information and referral to a board-certified dermatologist.



Murad Alam, MD, MSCI, MBA
President
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery