

## Medical Tourism in a world that fights against the pandemic infection of COVID19 should stop!

*Important message from the Scientific Committee and the President of EASAPS and ESAPS*

Please be aware that patients returning with complications after aesthetic surgery from abroad risk to get very low priority in the national health care system.

The rate of serious complications after aesthetic surgery is depending on the type and extend of surgery as well as patients' own health condition. Serious complications are not common but cannot be totally avoided. Infections, tissue necrosis and even life-threatening conditions including thromboembolic diseases after aesthetic surgery need prolonged medical and sometimes intensive care. Both air travel and major surgery increase the risk of developing deep vein Thrombosis or pulmonary embolism, specially flying soon before or after an operation abroad. This subject of patient safety when considering surgery abroad has been seriously discussed in national and international societies since a decade.

The actual health care situation in European countries is in its most critical period since world war II.

Some countries still advertise aesthetic surgery in functioning aesthetic surgical units. Patients must have frequent contact with their surgeon, before and after surgery and we think that patients should be able to see and speak with the surgeon that carried out the operation, if there are any concerns or problems. Especially nowadays!

A serious warning is expressed on behalf of EASAPS to all member societies since patients with complications will face problems to be admitted in plastic surgical units when returning to their home countries. Private units might be closed by governmental decisions. The general health care system will have problems to accept these patients because they have other priorities in overloaded hospitals with Covid-19 infected patients. They will use resources now urgently needed to address

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the Covid-19 Crisis. This also accounts for second line “COVID 19 free” hospitals, due to their capacities and resources.

EASAPS strongly recommends Aesthetic Clinics, Aesthetic Doctors, Aesthetic surgeons etc. to immediately stop advertising and practicing medical tourism in times of this COVID 19 pandemic!

We also strongly recommend potential patients of Medical Tourism to stop looking for it, they should not put themselves at risk, not risk infecting other people nor using resources now needed for Covid-19.

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