



DANGEROUS CURVES AHEAD.

Curves! Beautiful, sexy, feminine, and cheap. Breasts, hips, thighs, buttocks, legs, cheeks, chins, and even full, voluptuous lips.

Sound too good to be true?

It is.

By now, you may have realized that we are talking about silicone injections (the kind that no legitimate physician would ever administer).

Injected liquid silicone does not have USFDA approval. Don't be fooled by claims such as "Just as good as surgical implants, but without the price."

The truth of the matter is that non-medical, non-sterile grade silicone is often used, and is frequently adulterated with other non-medical grade substances. It is injected by people not trained in medical techniques or human anatomy, who frequently reuse needles.

One clear risk is migration or slippage of the injected material into other parts of the body. Other complications include inflammation, infection, and connective tissue disorders, as well as extrusion from the body. AIDS (from contaminated syringes) and other dangers may not become apparent for some years.

Sometimes the price of beauty can be too high.

If you desire surgical augmentation, see a plastic surgeon.

Send for our free pamphlet, "Dangerous Curves Ahead: Why Silicone Injections Can Be Hazardous to Your Health."

A public service of

AEGIS
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Educational
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Service

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Medical Advisory Bulletin

Dangerous Curves Ahead!

"Dangerous Curves Ahead" is the first in our series of public service advertisements which warn of dangers commonly faced by transgendered persons. We hope you will share it with your friends and colleagues and publish it in your magazine or newsletter.

"Dangerous Curves Ahead" deals with the hazards of liquid silicone, which is commonly (and usually illegally) injected in massive quantities into cheeks, lips, foreheads, chins, breasts, buttocks, hips, and thighs. The practice is more common than you might think, especially among those with contacts in the gay community. It is not, except in rare instances, done by licensed physicians, but by untrained practitioners with little knowledge of human anatomy and questionable aesthetic sense. They use non-medical grade, nonsterile silicone which may be adulterated with any of a variety of unsavory and unsafe substances, and injected with unsterilized, previously-used needles.

Some transgendered persons see silicone as a shortcut to femininity or masculinity, but it is a shortcut with a dead end. The dangers of liquid silicone are well-documented in the medical literature, and include respiratory disease, connective tissue disorders, and disorders of the immune system. The silicone does not remain stable in the body, but can move about, resulting in a bizarre appearance. Masses of silicone in the breast area make mammography nearly impossible, increasing the risk of undetected breast cancer. Re-use of needles is a primary means of transmission of hepatitis and AIDS.

Injected silicone is very difficult and quite expensive to remove, and often cannot be removed without disfiguration and scarring.

Injected silicone may improve appearance for a short time, but the risks far outweigh the benefits— and it is not cheap. In fact, the long-term costs greatly exceed those of other methods. Those who wish to augment their appearance should consider other alternatives, including the use of diet and exercise, clever use of cosmetics, and consultation with a plastic surgeon.

A qualified plastic surgeon can be found by calling the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons toll-free at 1-800-635-0635 for referral. The board will also send you a brochure about selecting plastic surgeons.

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