



TSBDE Policy Statement: Facial Cosmetic Surgery/Treatment

The Texas Dental Practice Act does not specifically address facial cosmetic surgery or treatment but it does define the scope of dentistry as being limited to “human teeth, oral cavity, alveolar process, gums, jaws, or directly related and adjacent masticatory structures.”^[1] This scope is broadened for dentists with an ADA-recognized specialty of oral and maxillofacial surgery to include “the diagnosis of and the surgical and adjunctive treatment of diseases, injuries, and defects involving the functional and aesthetic aspects of the hard and soft tissues of the oral and maxillofacial region.”^[2]

Based on the language in the statute, the Board has determined that the use of facial cosmetic procedures outside the stomatognathic system^[3] is not within the scope of practice for a dentist who does not have the specialty of oral and maxillofacial surgery. The products and procedures included within the heading of “facial cosmesis”^[4] can only be used for the diagnosis and treatment of functional issues of the stomatognathic system as part of a comprehensive treatment plan. Their use for isolated cosmetic purposes is permitted only for those dentists who have the specialty of oral and maxillofacial surgery.

^[1] [Tex. Occ. Code § 251.003\(a\)](#) (practice of dentistry).

^[2] [Tex. Occ. Code § 251.003\(c\)](#) (practice of the dental specialty of oral and maxillofacial surgery).

^[3] Stomatognathic system is the structures of the mouth and jaws as they relate to speech and the reception, mastication, and deglutition of food. The system is comprised of the teeth, jaws, muscles of mastication, epithelium, and temporomandibular joints and nerves that control the functioning of these structures.

^[4] These products are primarily Botox®, Restylane®, Dentox® and similar products.

This position statement was approved by the State Board of Dental Examiners on April 16, 2010.

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