

HOME > LOCAL NEWS

# Health Canada issues warning about cosmetic 'plasma pens'

Orillia expert says devices can likely be found in this area

Dec 7, 2018 8:00 AM By: [Nathan Taylor](#)



This photo shows a plasma pen treatment. Supplied photo

Health Canada is warning Canadians about the potential negative effects of a type of cosmetic device — some of which can likely be found in Orillia, according to a local medical esthetician.

“Health Canada is advising consumers that plasma pens (also known as “fibroblast” devices), promoted for cosmetic skin treatments such as eyelid lifts, wrinkle reduction and removal of moles, skin tags, scars and spots, may pose health risks,” the agency said in a news release. “Plasma pens are small handheld medical devices that focus electricity on the surface of the skin, which causes a controlled burn and spreads heat throughout the targeted area.”

According to Health Canada, potential side effects of plasma pen treatment — “even when the device is used properly — include pain, swelling of the treated area, redness, sagging skin (particularly in the upper eyelids), hyperpigmentation (spots), ultraviolet (UV) sensitivity, and skin peeling and crusting.”

It’s a device Blade Tiessen, who runs the Anti-Aging Clinic and Dispensary in downtown Orillia, has never used on clients.



“There’s too much risk. You’re burning holes in someone’s skin,” he said.

There’s a question about their legality, too, as Health Canada has not approved any of the devices for sale in Canada, “which means that they have not been evaluated for safety, effectiveness or quality,” the release stated.

“Health Canada has been made aware that plasma pens are being used in spas and are also being sold to consumers online and through esthetician training courses.”

Some of the training is inadequate, Tiessen said. He noted one “fibroblast training course” offered a full-day program, yet only 15 minutes was dedicated to learning about skin anatomy, how plasma fibroblast works and what to do post-procedure.

Advertisement

Tiessen, who has been advocating for years for regulation of the industry, said those looking to have procedures done need to do their homework. Someone can receive a certificate after completing minimal training, but that certificate sometimes comes from the manufacturer, not a recognized training institution.

“You need to educate yourselves as to that person’s credentials,” he said.

Health Canada says it is contacting spas and estheticians, as well as provincial and territorial authorities, “to inform them of the medical device licensing requirements and risks associated with the use of plasma pens. The department is also working with the Canada Border Services Agency to help prevent further importation of unauthorized plasma pens.”

It urges people to avoid the use of the devices.

To find out if a device has been authorized for sale, check out Health Canada’s [Medical Devices Active Licence Listing](#).

Advertisement



### About the Author: Nathan Taylor

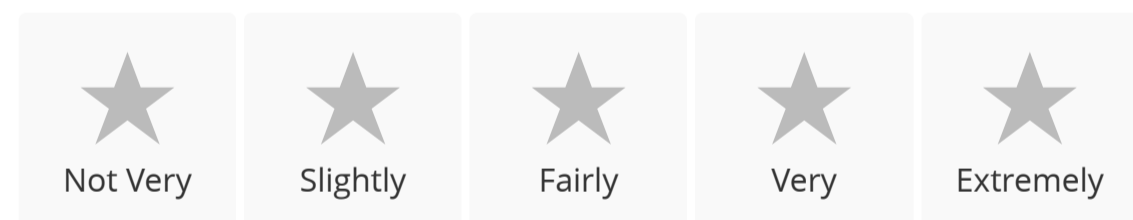
Nathan Taylor is an experienced multimedia journalist and editor who covers Orillia and other parts of Simcoe County. [Read more](#)

### This has been shared 20 times



### This story was important to me or our community:

[view results >](#)



### More Local News

Local correctional officers open up about life behind locked doors

Body recovered Saturday from Lake Simcoe is Orillia man: OPP

In the fall, some people take hunting to a whole different level

Comments (0) [Show](#)

[See a typo/mistake?](#)

[Have a story/tip?](#)

### Get your daily Orillia news briefing

Enter your email address [Sign Up](#)

### LATEST POLL

#### It is almost the weekend! What is your go-to Sunday breakfast item?

- Bacon/sausage and eggs, please!
- Bagel/doughnut/pastries all the way
- Breakfast sandwich
- Cereal/oatmeal
- Coffee and toast. I like to keep it simple
- Eggs Benedict, florentine, or something else fancy like that
- French toast/waffles/pancakes . . . Sweetness!
- A nice savoury omelette
- Yogurt. Call me plain
- I hate breakfast

[Vote](#) [Results >](#) [Archives >](#)

### LOCAL SALES AND SPECIAL OFFERS

[VIEW ALL OFFERS >](#)

[POST YOUR OWN OFFER >](#)

### News

- Local News
- Local Sports
- Arts and Entertainment
- Police Beat
- Local News Map
- Videos
- Midland News
- Beyond Local
- Canada
- National Business
- World News

### Features

- Events Calendar
- Weather
- Spotlight
- Adopt Me
- Postcard Memories
- Orillia's Insurance Hotline
- Gas Prices
- Garage Sales
- Horoscopes
- Comics
- Games (like Crosswords)
- Dear Abby

### Obits

### Flyers

### Shop

- Local Business Directory
- Flyers
- Autos
- Beauty and Fashion
- Financial Services
- Funeral and Estate Planning
- Government and Education
- Health and Wellness
- Home Improvement
- Professional Services
- Real Estate
- Recreation
- Shopping and Specialty Stores

### Classifieds

- All Classifieds
- Post a Free Ad
- Items for Sale
- Garage Sales
- Jobs
- Events
- My Account

### Jobs

- All Listings and Resources
- Real Estate Brokerages
- Commercial Space
- Apartments
- Waterfront Property
- Houses For Sale
- Open Houses

### Connect

- Join OrilliaMatters+
- Support Local News
- Our Supporters
- My Account
- Daily Headlines by Email
- Follow Us on Facebook
- Follow Us on Twitter

### Autos

### About

- About Us
- Advertising
- Media Kit
- Community Guidelines
- Contact Us
- Terms of Service
- Privacy Policy
- Journalistic Principles and Practices
- Community Leaders Program
- Reader Favourites
- Contest Rules

### Visit our network of sites:

- BarrieToday.com
- BayToday.ca
- BradfordToday.ca
- CanadaFlyers.ca
- CollingwoodToday.ca
- ElliotLakeToday.com
- GuelphToday.com
- InnisfilToday.ca
- MidlandToday.ca
- NewmarketToday.ca
- Northern Ontario Business
- OntarioFlyers.ca
- OrilliaMatters.com
- SooToday.com
- Sudbury.com
- ThoroldNews.com
- TimminsToday.com
- AlimoshToday.com

### Partner sites:

- AirdrieToday.com
- Alberta Prime Times
- CochraneToday.ca
- HalifaxToday.ca
- KitchenerToday.com
- LakelandToday.ca
- Manitoulin.ca
- MooseJawToday.com
- Mountain View Today
- Okotoks Today
- OttawaMatters.com
- PrinceGeorgeMatters.com
- RMO Today
- StAlbertToday.ca
- TBNewsWatch.com
- Town and Country Today
- Vancouver is Awesome