

Research Assessment #1

Date: 5/27/15

Subject: Personal take on Nation's view on dermatological procedures as cosmetic enhancement

MLA Citation:

Draelos, Zoe Diana. "Defining Cosmetic Issues in a World of Medical Necessity." *Wiley Online Library*, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, 17 Nov. 2014, onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jocd.12121.

Assessment:

For my first year in ISM, the career path I have chosen to research is dermatology. I have chosen this career path because in the future my goal is to help young teens and adults be more confident in themselves and not be self conscious about their skin. As I read and annotated "Defining Cosmetic Issues in a World of Medical Necessity", I have learned that in our changing world, the field of dermatology is being grouped into cosmetic procedures that are not covered by insurance. As I continued to read, I began to become intrigued by why our nation views the prestigious field of dermatology as treatments that should be paid for out of pocket.

I believe that the procedures that dermatologists provide are just as important as surgeries that are done by other doctors. In the article, an insurance plan by the

government is mentioned in which procedures done by dermatologists such as acne treatments are not covered by insurance. Legislators see acne treatments as not required because acne is not life threatening. I disagree with this ideology because acne has a negative impact on so many people around the world. Just because it is not life threatening does not mean that people aren't struggling day to day without a solution to help them. Since acne procedures are seen as cosmetic by insurance companies, they are having to be paid for out of pocket. This to me is wrong because people that need the treatments aren't able to afford it. I am affected by this plan because when I continue in my path to being a dermatologist, I am not able to attain my goal of being able to help everyone who is struggling with confidence in their own skin. I am not able to help everyone who needs the treatments just because of the government's need for money to fuel the economy. Dermatologists are having to take the short end of the stick when it comes to whether their profession is a medical necessity. Just because acne treatments are not equivalent to a heart transplant or another procedure that is huge; it doesn't mean the treatment isn't life changing for the person. The way a person views themselves whether inside or out is crucial to many factors such as their mental health.

Mental health is always taken for granted. The field of dermatology goes hand in hand with psychology even though they deal with two completely different parts of the body. As a current student in AP Psychology, I have learned that one's mental health can be affected by more than just outside experiences. I have learned that the way one perceives themselves is a large part of their mental health. Dermatology is a field which can help the way one perceives themselves by making them more confident. In the government's eyes, this automatically goes under cosmetic. I believe we should

redefine what society thinks dermatology is because the line between true cosmetic enhancement and a medical procedure on the skin is becoming more and more blurred. Skin should be seen as just another part of the body, and if one needs treatment for it then they shouldn't be having to take an extra amount of money to receive it unlike for other fields of procedures.