

"USA TODAY hopes to serve as a forum for better understanding and unity to help make the USA truly one nation."

-Allen H. Neuharth, Founder, Sept. 15, 1982

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## Letters

# Patients should ask, learn about doctor's qualifications

### Proper training is key

Part of the problem is that patients frequently seek "deals," thereby promoting cost over quality.

As a founding member of The Cosmetic Bootcamp, which offers specialty training to physicians and their staff, I have tried to provide medical education only to those who are board-certified or board-eligible in a specialty that realistically should be doing a procedure.

Many of the national societies and academies will train anyone who registers for a course, and the companies that make the products will sell them to anyone who can prove that he or she is licensed.

This does not mean that board-certified physicians practicing within the scope of their specialty are without problems; medicine is far from perfect.

However, it does mean that when a pathologist or gynecologist is doing injections in the face or laser procedure on the face, the patient should stop and ask not only whether the person is qualified, but also why he is entering a specialty he has no training for.

Kenneth Beer, M.D.  
West Palm Beach, Fla.



Family photo

**Fatal cosmetic surgery:** Maria Shortall, 38, died of cardiac arrest after a liposuction.