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WRINKLES ON THE RISE DUE TO THE ECONOMY

Eight in ten cosmetic surgeons have been affected by the economic downturn

Chicago, IL (January 14, 2009) – The American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery announces the results of its 2008 Economic Impact Survey. The results reveal that the cosmetic surgery industry has not been exempt from the current economic downturn.

Almost all cosmetic surgeons (95.9%) were concerned about the economic downturn in the U.S. and about eight in ten (79.3%) cosmetic surgeons have already been affected. Additionally, cosmetic surgeons indicated both patient volume and gross billings for cosmetic surgery has declined by about one-third.

When asked about patient choices, cosmetic surgeons indicated more patients were choosing non-surgical and less expensive procedures. Seven in ten (70.6%) indicated that more of their patients were choosing non-surgical procedures such as Botox and other fillers while more than eight in ten (82.4%) said that more patients were choosing less expensive procedures.

“This survey reiterates the struggle consumers have to afford cosmetic procedures,” said Dr. Patrick McMenemy, MD, President of the AACS. “We are all feeling the pinch but continue to be optimistic that the cosmetic surgery industry will rebound and in turn grow stronger within the next year.”

The survey results and doctor interviews are available by contacting the Academy. Information on choosing a cosmetic surgeon and questions to ask before having cosmetic surgery can be found on the AACS website, at www.cosmeticsurgery.org.

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The American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery is a professional medical society whose members are dedicated to patient safety and physician education in cosmetic surgery. Most members of the AACS are dermatologic surgeons, facial plastic surgeons, head and neck surgeons, general surgeons, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, plastic surgeons, or ocular plastic surgeons – all of whom specialize in cosmetic surgery. AACS is an organization that represents all cosmetic surgeons in the American Medical Association through its seat in the AMA House of Delegates.