

## Discipline Report

### Edmonton dermatologist reprimanded by CPSA

**Dr. Barry Lycka** (also known as Dr. Barry Allen Lycka or Dr. Allen Lycka), a dermatologist from Edmonton, was sanctioned by a CPSA hearing tribunal, after he was found guilty of unprofessional conduct in 2019.

#### Background

In 2017, a patient of Dr. Lycka's asked about Dysport (botulinum toxin A) injections as a treatment for bruxism (teeth grinding). Dr. Lycka agreed to the treatment and administered the injections after quickly palpating the patient's jaw. Within a few days, the patient began experiencing complications, including pain in her face and down her arm, which worsened to the point where she sought treatment at the emergency room. At a follow-up appointment with Dr. Lycka, a demand was made of the patient, to sign a letter confirming she would not complain about her experience to CPSA. In exchange, the patient would receive a refund for the Dysport injections.

The hearing tribunal found that Dr. Lycka displayed a lack of skill and judgement when he failed to fully discuss the risks and benefits of the treatment with the patient, did not create a clinical record of having obtained informed consent for the procedure and attempted to prevent the patient from filing a complaint. They ordered the following sanctions:

1. Dr. Lycka received a reprimand.
2. If CPSA's Physician Health Monitoring Program finds Dr. Lycka fit to continue practising medicine, his practice permit is suspended for two months.
3. Dr. Lycka is responsible for paying 85 per cent of the costs associated with the investigation and hearing (totalling \$39,196.40).

Dr. Lycka's registration with CPSA remains active but he has withdrawn from practice.

#### Commentary

The hearing tribunal found that Dr. Lycka's conduct was a breach of the Canadian Medical Association's *Code of Ethics* (the Code that was in force at the time of Dr. Lycka's offense), the predecessor to the current *Code of Ethics & Professionalism*. The attempt to compel a patient to give up their right to complain especially undermines the medical professions ability to self-regulate, as physicians need to be held to account if they fail to meet their responsibility to provide good care to their patients.