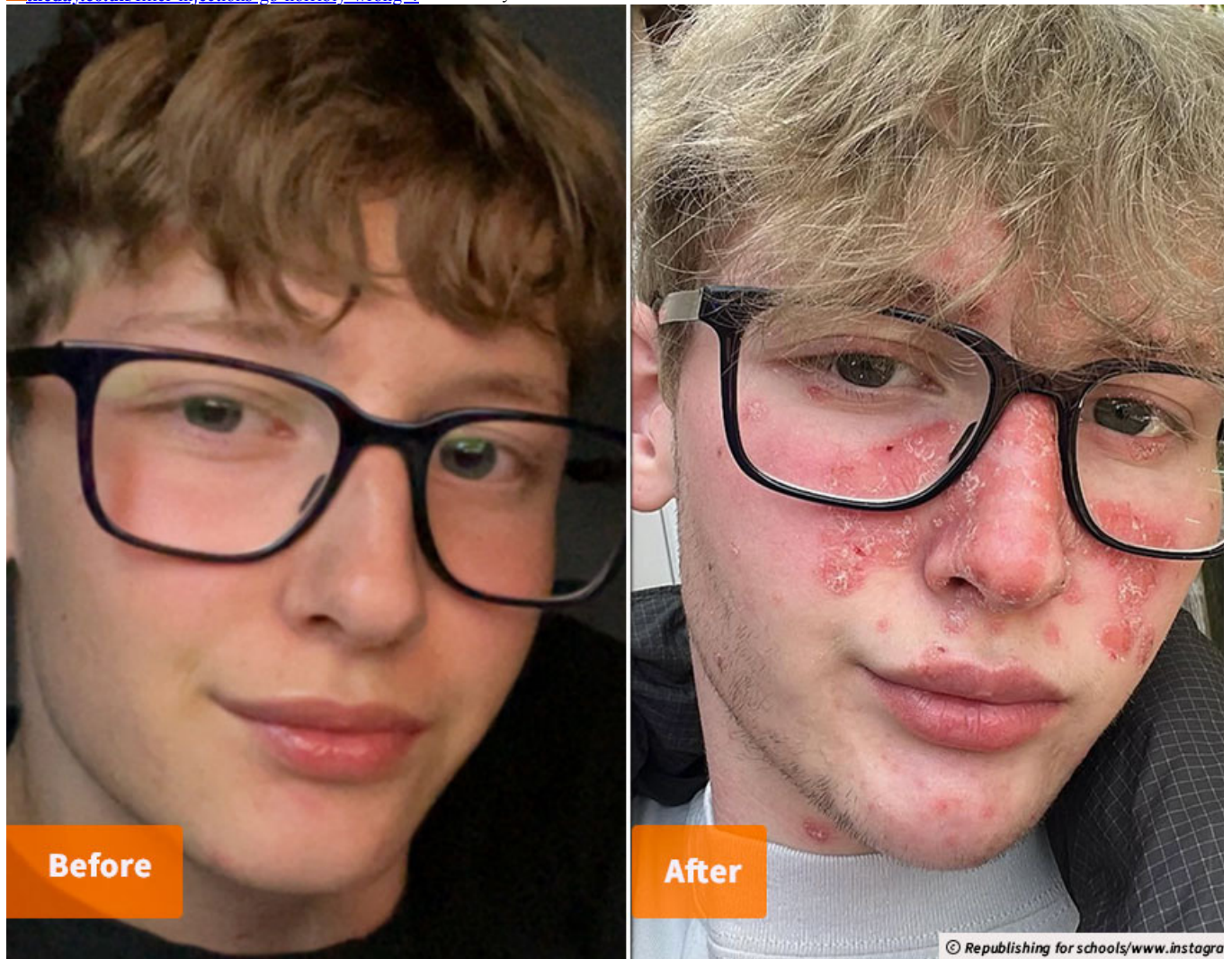


# Filler injections go horribly wrong

[theday.co.uk/filler-injections-go-horribly-wrong-4](https://theday.co.uk/filler-injections-go-horribly-wrong-4) 10 February 2025



**Warning:** Charlie Michael Baker has been told his adverse reaction to lip fillers may mean he needs chemotherapy — but he does not rule out getting more fillers in the future.

**Is “looksmaxxing” self-improvement? A teenage influencer has spoken out after illegal lip filler injections gave him a painful skin condition.**

## What’s happening?

Charlie Michael Baker wanted to look like **Kim Kardashian**. He was just 16 years old, but he was already an **influencer** with thousands of followers on **social media**.

He found a woman who was willing to inject him, **illegally**, with lip fillers. The **cosmetic** treatment is supposed to make your lips look larger.

But something went terribly wrong. His body had a bad reaction to the fillers and developed a painful skin condition called **psoriasis**.

## Find out more

Baker is not the only teenager who is willing to pay for cosmetic treatments. One **plastic surgeon** says that women are asking for “the *Love Island* look”.

Others follow the online **trend** of “looksmaxxing”. This is the idea that you should “maximise” your appearance to become as attractive as possible.

Some say looksmaxxing is just one form of self-improvement, like going to the gym, wearing make-up or buying fashionable clothes.

We might like to pretend we do not judge others by appearance. But the truth is that many of us do.

Some say we have become unhealthily focussed on looks. It stops us from seeing someone’s true character.

An obsession with looks can also endanger our lives. Around 1.25 million people in the UK have an **eating disorder**. Sometimes they can be very serious.

## Is “looksmaxxing” self-improvement?

### Some say

Yes! In South Korea people even attach photographs to job applications. We know we live in a society where we are judged on looks. There is nothing wrong with wanting to improve your look.

### Others think

No! Once you start “looksmaxxing”, you will never be happy. You will constantly want to make more and more changes to your body. It is better to focus not on your outward looks, but how you feel inside.

## Six steps to discovery

Some people say

1. Connect

*"Let us be grateful to the mirror for revealing to us our appearance only."*

**Samuel Butler (1835 – 1902), British novelist**

*What do you think?*

**How do you feel about this story?** - Do you feel happy with your appearance? Would you get cosmetic surgery to change it?

**2. Wonder**

**What questions do you have?** - For example: Why do some people get lip fillers? Are they happier after they get fillers?

**3. Investigate**

**What are the facts?** - Pick out one thing we know for certain and one thing we cannot say for sure about this story.

**4. Construct**

**What is your point of view?** - You can ask Charlie three questions. What would you ask?

**5. Express**

**What do others believe?** - Do you think social media encourages dangerous trends? Discuss as a class.

**6. Reflect**

**What might happen next?** - How does physical appearance affect your life? Write an essay or make a video about your experiences, and submit it to Student Voices.

**Glossary**

**Kim Kardashian** - An American reality TV personality and online influencer.

**Influencer** - Somebody who uses their online social media profiles to suggest or promote ideas to others.

**Social media** - Social media is defined by websites, apps and social games that connect people to each other through the sharing of pictures, thoughts, ideas, articles, and other content.

**Illegally** - In a way that is against the law.

**Cosmetic** - Relating to somebody or something's appearance.

**Psoriasis** - A skin disease that cause red, scaly patches.

**Plastic surgeon** - A surgeon who restores the function and appearance of parts of the body. This can be done following an illness or injury, or it can be for purely cosmetic (or looks-based) reasons.

**Trend** - Something that becomes popular very quickly.

**Eating disorder** - A range of mental health conditions which result in somebody having abnormal eating patterns, which then affects their physical and mental health.