

Doctors say hospitals should ban perfumes

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via Jean Peste on flickr.com

Doctors in Canada have called for a ban on the use of perfumes and aftershaves in hospitals and clinics. They say the chemicals in the scents can trigger asthma

and allergies. Research shows that over half of asthma attacks are caused by irritants such as powerful smells. Besides perfumes and aftershaves, these can include cigarette smoke, cleaning fluids and other strong fragrances and odours. Dr Ken Flegel and Dr James Martin of McGill University in Canada wrote about the dangers of smells in hospital in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. They said: "Hospital environments free from artificial scents should become a uniform policy, promoting the safety of patients, staff and visitors alike."

Strong smells affect many of us in one way or another. Around a third of people say they are physically affected by artificial scents worn by others. The doctors noted that this should be a serious concern in all hospitals. They wrote: "While artificial scents are designed to make us more attractive, they may result in unintended harm to those who are vulnerable. There is emerging evidence that asthma, in some cases, is primarily aggravated by artificial scents." They added that: "This is particularly concerning in hospitals, where vulnerable patients with asthma or other upper airway or skin sensitivities are concentrated." They warn that scents in hospitals can make these patients' condition worse.

Sources: *Telegraph / DailyMail / WebMB.boots.com*

Writing

Perfumes and aftershaves should be banned in hospitals. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

doctors / ban / hospitals / smells / cigarette smoke / dangers / environments / patients / physically / serious / concern / attractive / evidence / vulnerable / sensitivities

True / False

- Doctors want to ban the use of perfumes in clinics. T / F
- A third of asthma attacks are caused by things like strong smells. T / F
- The doctors who came up with the ban are from a Canadian university. T / F
- The doctors said artificial scents are OK in hospitals and clinics. T / F
- Artificial smells affect around a third of us. T / F
- Doctors say artificial smells can harm people who are vulnerable. T / F
- Doctors say artificial scents cause no problem to sensitive skin. T / F
- Doctors say artificial scents will not worsen a patient's condition. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. ban | a. set off |
| 2. trigger | b. touch |
| 3. odours | c. without |
| 4. free from | d. state |
| 5. uniform | e. worry |
| 6. affect | f. prohibition |
| 7. concern | g. proof |
| 8. artificial | h. identical |
| 9. evidence | i. smells |
| 10. condition | j. synthetic |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- To what extent do you agree with the doctors?
- What smells do you dislike, and why?
- What do you think of the smell of perfume and aftershave?
- Should perfumes and aftershaves be banned in hospitals?
- Should a hospital patient be able to sue someone wearing perfume?
- In what ways do you think smells can be dangerous?
- How should hospitals smell?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. the chemicals in the scents can | a. many of us |
| 2. cleaning | b. policy |
| 3. the dangers of | c. concern |
| 4. become a uniform | d. patients |
| 5. promoting the safety | e. smells in hospitals |
| 6. Strong smells affect | f. trigger asthma |
| 7. in one way | g. sensitivities |
| 8. this should be a serious | h. of patients |
| 9. vulnerable | i. fluids |
| 10. skin | j. or another |

Discussion – Student B

- What smells remind you of your childhood?
- What do you think of the idea of artificial smells?
- How much do perfumes and aftershaves make us more attractive?
- When have you not liked an overpowering fragrance?
- Do we need perfumes and aftershaves?
- To what extent is the fragrance in soap enough for us?
- What should hospitals do from now?
- What questions would you like to ask the two doctors?

Spelling

- perfumes and ehravsfesat
- the shcmeclaj in the scents
- asthma and ealgleisr
- caused by stirtarni
- other strong fragrances and sdorou (UK) / sodor (US)
- free from iratiacilf scents
- they are physically acedefft
- this should be a reusosi concern
- designed to make us more avatcirtte
- harm to those who are benevlrlau
- particularly iecnongcrn in hospitals
- make these patients' citiondon worse

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. f | 2. a | 3. i | 4. c | 5. h |
| 6. b | 7. e | 8. j | 9. g | 10. d |

Role Play

Role A – Hospitals

You think hospitals are the one place perfumes should be banned. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why perfume in their place is OK. Also, tell the others which is the most acceptable of these to wear perfume (and why): trains, restaurants or schools.

Role B – Trains

You think trains are the one place perfumes should be banned. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why perfume in their place is OK. Also, tell the others which is the most acceptable of these to wear perfume (and why): hospitals, restaurants or schools.

Role C – Restaurants

You think restaurants are the one place perfumes should be banned. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why perfume in their place is OK. Also, tell the others which is the most acceptable of these to wear perfume (and why): trains, hospitals or schools.

Role D – Schools

You think schools are the one place perfumes should be banned. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why perfume in their place is OK. Also, tell the others which is the most acceptable of these to wear perfume (and why): trains, restaurants or hospitals.

Speaking – Fragrances

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| • fresh coffee | • freshly baked bread |
| • flowers | • freshly ironed shirts |
| • burning wood | • freshly cut grass |
| • caramel | • perfume |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | T | b | F | c | T | d | F | e | T | f | T | g | F | h | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.