



## ADVANCED INTENSE PULSED LIGHT

# POSSIBLE RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS

All medical procedures involve risk to some degree. It is important before undergoing any procedure that a patient is aware of the potential benefits as well as the risk, no matter how slight, of side-effects and complications.

Because intense pulsed light is not an exact science, no guarantees or assurances can be made as to the outcome. However, based on experience, there is a strong likelihood of a positive result from the treatment.

Clinical results may vary depending on individual factors, including, but not limited to, medical history, amount of sun damage or textural problems, patient compliance with pre/post-treatment instructions, and individual response to treatment.

The complications that may occur in connection with this procedure could include the following:

- ✿ Infection: Albeit rare, skin infection is a possibility any time a skin procedure is performed. Although rare, it is possible for a skin infection to become a blood-borne widespread infection.
- ✿ Blood clots in veins and lungs: Albeit extremely rare, it may be possible to develop a blood clot associated with this treatment that goes (embolizes) to the heart and/or lungs.
- ✿ Allergic reactions: Although uncommon, it is possible to develop an allergic reaction to medicines applied to the treated area, or prescribed for the patient.
- ✿ Hemorrhage and bruising: Bruising in the treated area is possible, especially if, within the previous ten (10) days, the patient has taken aspirin or aspirin-containing products, or other medications that "thin" the blood.
- ✿ Recurrence of a lesion: Even with multiple treatments, results might not be permanent.
- ✿ Painful or unattractive scarring: Scarring is a rare complication of light assisted treatment, but it is possible. The skin surface is not disrupted by the light pulse, but it may peel and flake post-procedure, exposing fresh skin. To minimize the chances of scarring, it is most important that the patient follow all post-procedure instructions carefully.
- ✿ Discomfort and pain: Some discomfort will be experienced during and after the laser treatment. Topical and/or local injection of anaesthesia when and if deemed appropriate should be offered to the patient.
- ✿ Pigment changes (skin colour): During the healing process, the treated area may become either lighter or darker in colour than the surrounding skin. This is usually temporary, but on a rare occasion, it may be permanent.
- ✿ Sun exposure: Once the surface has healed, it may be pink and sensitive to the sun. Treated areas should be blocked completely. A sun block with both UVA and UVB protection and an SPF greater than 40 should be used at all times in areas not protected by clothing, whether or not the patient is direct sun.
- ✿ Blindness and eye damage: The light, without protective eyewear, may cause visual loss including blindness. It is important to keep these shields on at all times during the procedure and that the eyes be kept closed in order to protect them from accidental laser exposure.