

## POSSIBLE RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS

It is important before undergoing any procedure that a patient is aware of the potential benefits and expected skin reactions post treatment. Risk factors, no matter how slight, can lead to side-effects and complications. All medical procedures involve risk to some degree, by following practitioner instructions with compliancy patients can reduce any likelihood of risk.

Due to the nature of intense pulsed light, 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 following IPL treatment procedure could include the following:

- ✿ Allergic reactions: Although uncommon, it is possible to develop an allergic reaction to medicines applied to the treated area, or prescribed for the patient. Please advise your practitioner of you have any allergies including latex glove allergies.
- ✿ Recurrence of a lesion: Even with multiple treatments, results might not be permanent, particularly if treated skin endures further sun exposure. In this instance pigmentation could return sooner and a maintenance or top up treatment may be recommended.
- ✿ 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 rare occasion it may be long lasting requiring a different treatment approach to resolve. In rare occasions pigment changes could be permanent. Your practitioner will guide and advise you on what you could expect.
- ✿ Infection: Skin infection is a possibility any time a skin procedure is performed. Although rare, it is possible for a skin infection to set in if proper care is not administered after the treatment. A special cream is recommended post treatment to boost skin healing and offer antibacterial properties.
- ✿ 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. Please advise your practitioner if this is the case, treatment could be scheduled accordingly.
- ✿ Scarring: Scarring is a rare complication of light assisted treatment. 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 treatment. Topical anaesthesia when and if deemed appropriate could be considered during treatment.
- ✿ 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. A skin booster is also recommended to healing and correction of the skin post treatment.
- ✿ 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. Eye shields come in varied options and may include sticky patches, metal shields or goggles that are deemed IPL appropriate.