

Vbeam Laser Therapy: What You Should Know Prior To Treatment

What is V-Beam Laser treatment, and how does it work?

The Vbeam is a specific device that produces an intense but gentle burst of light that destroys unwanted blood vessels in a vascular lesion without damaging surrounding tissue. Through a series of laser treatments, the appearance of these vascular lesions (i.e., birthmarks, telangiectasias, and rosacea) can be significantly reduced, and in many cases, removed entirely.

Will the treatment hurt?

There may be some stinging, burning, or discomfort experienced while the laser is in use. With each subsequent treatment the discomfort usually lessens. If additional anesthesia is needed, all options will be discussed prior to the treatment.

What are the potential risks of the treatment?

While the studies of Vbeam laser therapy have been extensive, and the treatment has been proven safe, there are potential risks to the procedure including: scarring, hypopigmentation (lightening of the skin) and hyperpigmentation (darkening of the skin). These risks are very small and will be reduced with proper care to the treated area.

What should I expect after treatment, and how should I care for the treated area?

Immediately following the laser treatment, the treated area will appear red, be warm, and may have slight swelling. The red appearance and warm sensations may last up to 2-3 days. If swelling occurs, it usually lasts for less than 24 hours, but may persist for several days. Cool compresses can decrease the swelling and can help to minimize excess warmth or redness. In addition, depending on the desired effect, aggressiveness of the treatment, and certain medications that may increase the risk/severity, bruising is possible. If this bruising occurs, resolution normally is seen in 7-10 days after the original treatment.

After treatment, you should use a mild cleanser to wash the treated area until the redness and swelling improves. If you are using an anti-aging skin regimen, you may need to replace this with a mild moisturizer until redness and swelling resolve. Recommendations for a moisturizer are available upon request.

If crusting occurs over treated areas, you should cleanse the area daily with mild soap and water and apply Vaseline.

Cherry angiomas (red spots or bumps on the body) may appear raw, bruised, or crusted for 1-2 weeks after treatment. If so, clean the area with mild soap and water and apply Vaseline. It is optional to cover the areas with Band-Aids or paper tape.

Does the correction last forever, and if not, how often will I require treatment?

Each individual is different, and the response to treatment and tendency to develop new vessels is equally different from person to person. The number of Vbeam treatments vary with the severity of the original skin condition and the response to each treatment. The number of laser therapies required also depends on how much improvement is desired by the individual. As a rule, some degree of improvement is seen with each consecutive treatment, and previously treated areas can be retreated every 4-6 weeks as needed.

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