

Fractionated Laser Treatments

People with slight or mild irregularities in the skin, such as fine lines and scars, can be treated with the fractionated ablative Erbium:YAG or Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) laser.

HOW THE TREATMENT WORKS

Laser light is directed onto your skin in a matrix, or square, of small dots. These dots create fine channels into the skin, which heal quickly. The light energy both stimulates and re-grows your skin's natural collagen. This may help either to smooth creases or renew scarred tissue.

BEFORE YOUR APPOINTMENT

- If you have a cold sore or other skin infection in the area to be treated, please inform the Laser Clinic staff as treatment must be delayed or re-arranged until the area is completely healed.
- If you wear make-up, please bring along the lotions you use to remove it.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON THE DAY?

- When you arrive, you will meet a member of the Laser Clinic staff involved in the laser treatment. They will explain the treatment to you. You will be able to ask any questions that you want before being offered treatment.

- Photographs are taken before and after each treatment to monitor progress.
- A test patch may be performed to guide further treatment but the laser is generally well tolerated.
- The pulses of laser produce a warm sensation, which is not usually painful. No anaesthetic is necessary.
- As this treatment almost never requires any anaesthetic or dressings, it can be done as a simple walk-in, walk-out (outpatient) procedure with minimal down time for the patient.

AFTER LASER TREATMENT

- The area may sting for a few hours after treatment and is similar to the feeling of sunburn. You may wish to apply a cold compress to the area to help relieve this sensation.
- A regular pattern of fine dots may be noticeable after the treatment. This would be expected to last no longer than about five days. It is perfectly reasonable to use make-up during that time. You may wish to apply a simple, non-perfumed cream or gel to protect the skin during this time.
- It is important that crusting does not occur and this may require the use of a petroleum-based product or ointment, such as Vaseline, to provide a covering.

- Although you may be aware of some beneficial effects immediately after the treatment has healed, the full effects will not be realised until 3 - 6 months later.
- Laser treatment may make the underlying skin colour darker or lighter. Any darkening, due to formation of brown skin pigment, usually fades over 6 - 12 months. If the skin is made paler, this may be permanent.
- Please make sure that you protect your skin from the sun, in particular during the first week after treatment.

NUMBER OF TREATMENTS

- It is recommended that three to five treatments are performed with an interval of about six weeks between treatments. This is needed to get the maximum benefit from the procedure.
- Many people choose to book regular visits to maintain younger looking skin. We recommend revisiting every 2 years.

CANCELLATIONS

- Cancellations made within two weeks of an appointment often result in empty appointment slots as these are very difficult to fill at such short notice.
- Please let us know of any dates or times which may be unsuitable when booking your next appointment (usually 4 - 6 weeks apart).

STAFF AT THE LASER CLINIC

Consultant Plastic Surgeons:

Mr Richard Cole. MB, ChB, ChM, FRCS(Plast)

Mr Adam Sawyer. BSc, DO-HNS, MSc, LLM(Law), FEBOPRAS, FRCS(Plast)

Mr Eunan Tiernan. MB, BCh, BAO, BA, FRCSI, FRCS(Plast)

Speciality Doctor:

Mr Sathish Jayagopal, MBBS, MRCSEd

Scientific Director:

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Clinical Scientist:

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If you cannot keep your appointment, please notify us as soon as possible

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You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital. The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk if you would like a reference list.

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Welcome to The Salisbury Laser Clinic

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Fine Skin Crease Lines and Mild Acne Scarring

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information

THE SALISBURY
Laser Clinic
Treating skin since 1982

