



Mountain State Dermatology



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Vascular Laser Patient Information

How does the vascular laser work?

The laser puts out very short pulses of intensely bright light. This light penetrates the skin and is absorbed by the red cells within the blood vessel. The energy from the light is converted to heat which damages the blood vessel itself.

Am I a good candidate?

The ideal patient has a fair to medium skin tone and small red/purple vessels.

Is the treatment painful?

Each laser pulse can treat an area about the size of nickel. There is a moderate stinging sensation that lasts for a few seconds. The skin is cooled with air during the laser treatment to reduce the stinging sensation. After the treatment some stinging remains that is similar to sunburn.

What will I look like after my treatment?

A bruised appearance is common after vascular laser treatments. Studies have shown that when bruising occurs results are obtained more quickly.

Is it permanent?

While the vessel that is treated is permanently destroyed, new vessels can form over time. Treatment regimens for rosacea as well as sun avoidance can help prevent new vessel formation over time.

MAIN OFFICE

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Why are multiple treatments recommended?

Individual veins can respond differently to the laser. Some may require more treatments than others to show complete clearance.

Port wine stains (vascular birthmarks) require multiple treatments because the vessels are deeper beneath the surface of the skin.

What are the possible side effects?

A bruised appearance of the skin is common after vascular laser treatments. This purple color is temporary and will resolve within 1-2 weeks. A darker brown pigment may result after the bruise fades, but is also temporary (resolves within two months).

If the extent of bruising is a concern, a “test spot” can be done before a full treatment. This allows the patient an opportunity to see how their skin responds to the laser before having a full treatment.

How much will my vascular laser treatment cost?

The cost varies depending on how large an area is to be treated. We will be happy to discuss treatment cost in advance of treatment. Insurance reimbursement is not available for vascular laser treatments.

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