

COMPLICATIONS OF LASER SKIN RESURFACING

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MILD	MODERATE	SEVERE
Persistent erythema Transient edema Milia formation Acne perturbation Contact dermatitis	Transient hyperpigmentation Local HSV reactivation Superficial bacterial/fungal infection Delayed hypopigmentation	Hypertrophic scarring Disseminated infection Ectropion

Side Effect/Complication	Prevention
Prolonged erythema/contact dermatitis	Avoid irritating products during recovery
Milia formation/acne perturbation	Avoid prolonged occlusion/comedogenic substances
Hyperpigmentation	Avoid postoperative UVL exposure Avoid postop use of irritating products
Bacterial infection	Meticulous wound care +/- oral antibiotics
Viral (HSV) infection	Prophylactic oral antiviral x 7 days (acyclovir, famciclovir, valacyclovir)
Hypopigmentation Hypertrophic scarring Ectropion	Avoid overly aggressive treatment/pulse stacking Avoid treatment of inappropriate areas

PROLONGED ERYTHEMA	HYPERPIGMENTATION	HYPOPIGMENTATION	HYPERTROPHIC SCARRING
Normal response to rx Duration 1-6 months May indicate underlying rosacea or dermatitis	Seen in 10-35% of patients (100% incidence in darker skin tones) Appears 1 month post-op Shorter duration in 1-pass procedures	True hypopigmentation uncommon; <i>relative</i> hypopigmentation more frequent Delayed onset (6-12 months) Predisposed areas: -Perioral/mandibular region -Previously rx'ed areas -Aggressively rx'ed areas	Rare occurrence Fibrosis w/in 1 mo post-op Related to: -Aggressive rx -Overlapping pulses/scans -Incomplete removal of partially-desiccated skin between passes

PROLONGED ERYTHEMA	HYPERPIGMENTATION	HYPOPIGMENTATION	HYPERTROPHIC SCARRING
Skin tx options: -Moisturizer -L-ascorbic acid -Rosacea/dermatitis tx (prn) -Camouflage makeup	Treatment options: -Bleaching agents: arbutin, kojic acid, hydroquinone -Glycolic acid -Azelaic acid -Ascorbic acid -Retinoic acid	Treatment options: -Mild chemical peels -IPL or excimer laser -Topical oxsoralen -Gradual UVL exposure	Treatment options: -585 nm pulsed dye laser -Topical silicone gel/sheet -Steroid (topical/injection) -Intralesional 5-FU -Pressure/massage

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