



Versa Pulse 532 Vascular Laser

- Patient's Guide -



Lions Laser Skin Centre
The Skin Care Centre
UBC Division of Dermatology
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VANCOUVER HOSPITAL
& Health Sciences Centre
A part of the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

The Versa Pulse Laser

The Versa Pulse 532 laser is an advanced laser system used to treat vascular (red) lesions. A brief pulse of green laser light heats and destroys abnormal blood vessels found in port wine stains and telangiectases (often referred to as "broken veins" or "spider veins"). This light is used in combination with a chilled-tip delivery device which applies active, contact cooling to protect the skin while minimizing patient discomfort. The design of this laser allows treatment of blood vessels on any skin surface, decreasing side effects such as bruising and scarring.

Before your Treatment

At your first visit, we will discuss your skin type, the size of the area to be treated and your expectations from treatment. After your condition has been assessed and treatment discussed, you will be required to sign a consent form, as with any medical procedure. All make-up must be removed prior to treatment. The treatment area will be photographed to document your progress.

During your Treatment

If the area to be treated is large, test patches may be done to determine the dose of light that will produce the best result; smaller lesions may be treated fully at the first visit. The laser light is delivered to the lesion through a flexible hand piece, which is held by the physician. A gel is applied to the skin to improve cooling of the skin. You will feel the cold chilled-tip against your skin and the laser exposures feel like elastic being snapped against the skin. Everyone in the room must wear protective goggles. The length of each treatment session depends on the size of the area to be treated.

After your Treatment

Immediately after the treatment, the area may look pink or slightly bruised with mild swelling. In some cases, blisters may form in the treated area or the area may look like a cat scratch with crusting. These should resolve in about 10 days. If blisters occur, apply Polysporin (or another topical antibiotic) twice a day and avoid cosmetics for as long as blisters are present to reduce the possibility of infection. It may take 6-8 weeks before the full benefit of treatment is seen.

Follow-up

The second visit will be two to three months later in order to allow sufficient time for the lesion to fade. Any subsequent treatments are carried out at intervals no sooner than every two months. It is not uncommon to take more than one treatment for the vessel to be removed.

Outcome

Most patients with port wine stains experience a satisfactory lightening response from this treatment. Several treatments are often needed to achieve significant lightening. Most patients with "spider" or "broken" veins on the face and chest also experience good to excellent results. Treatment of spider leg veins may be effective; you may wish to discuss this with your Dermatologist during your consultation at the Lions Laser Skin Centre. The Versa Pulse 532 laser is not a treatment for varicose veins. If you have any problems or concerns, contact your physician.

Questions

We will be happy to answer any questions during your consultation visit.

Skin Care Following Laser Treatment

1. Keep the site clean. Gentle cleansing twice a day with a mild soap is helpful.
2. If blisters or scabs occur after treatment, avoid cosmetics on or near the treated area until they are cleared.
3. Use Polysporin ointment (or Bactroban or Bacitracin ointment) if there is any blistering, scabbing or crusting on the skin.
4. Do not attempt to remove scabs, scaling or crust by force since this can cause scarring. These will fall off naturally within 1-2 weeks.
5. If any problems, pain, bleeding, or infection (redness or drainage after 48 hours) occur, please call the Lions Laser Skin Centre at **604-875-4682 or 604-875-5151**. For emergencies after office hours and on weekends, please contact your Laser Surgeon (phone number listed in the White Pages).

*The Lions Laser Skin Centre is supported by
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The information in this document is intended solely for the person to whom it was given by the health care team.

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