

TREATMENT BY CO2 LASER FOR A MEDICAL INDICATION

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A treatment by CO2 laser has been proposed. This treatment consists of superficial and controlled destruction of your dermatological lesion.

This treatment can be performed without anaesthetic for very small lesions. Depending on the size, number and location of lesions, treatment may be performed under topical anesthesia. (application of cream one to 2 hours before the session under occlusion), local anesthesia (injection of xylocaine under the lesion) or even general anesthesia.

The skin is first disinfected, and once the anesthesia is done, the doctor will vaporize the lesion, which will lead to its destruction and the emission of smoke aspirated by a special device equipped with a microbial filter.

Once the act is done, there will remain a wound requiring care to obtain the best healing possible. The care should be extended until complete healing (ie until complete reconstitution of the skin).

Depending on the size of the wound, these may be healing creams or closed dressings.

Pain may be present in the immediate aftermath of the laser act and may require analgesic medications which may be prescribed. Aspirin derivatives must be avoided since they are a source of bleeding.

Once the healing is complete, a residual scar persists, more or less visible depending on the size of the destroyed lesion. The color of this scar will vary from patient to patient, depending on phototype and the depth of destruction of the lesion. Usually pink at first, this color will fade in a few months to become less visible, usually leaving a pale trace.

Potential complications are:

- Secondary infection of the lesions: any persistent pain, the presence of pus, or delayed healing must be reported.
- An allergy to any of the products used during the session causing itchiness.
- Hypertrophic or atrophic scars
- Hyperpigmentation especially for dark or mixed skin

The doctor who gave you this form is at your disposal to answer all your questions.

This information sheet recommended by the French Laser Society can be given to you by your dermatologist. Even if it is not sufficient to have an estimate, it helps to give the patient a clear information.

The information consultation provides clear explanations on expected outcomes, side effects and possible complications. A post-operative order and an advice sheet are given to the patient with the doctor's contact information.



Laser et Peau: **the French-language information site for patients, written by expert dermatologists from the Société Française des Lasers en Dermatologie.**

Everything you need to know about laser treatments, pulsed light, radiofrequency and other techniques for skin care or aesthetic applications.



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