

Solving PIH after Laser Treatments

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SUMMARY

Postinflammatory hyperpigmentation (PIH) is a common consequence following laser treatment in dark-skinned individuals with Fitzpatrick skin phototypes IV-VI. The exact pathogenesis of this condition is unknown but is believed to be an integral part of the normal response of the skin to inflammatory stimuli. PIH can last from months to years and may significantly impair the quality of life of affected individuals. Management of laser-induced PIH remains a challenge, especially in dark-skinned individuals. The general approach to laser-induced PIH is either to prevent or to treat it. There are a variety of medications and procedures used to treat PIH. Although topical skin-depigmenting agents remain the treatment of choice for PIH, lasers and light sources may be an effective adjunctive therapy or alternative for treatment failures. Data regarding the prevention of laser-induced PIH is limited. Although many treatment options are available for PIH, it takes months for PIH to resolve, even with an adequate therapy. Characteristics and pathogenesis of laser-induced PIH will be discussed and therapeutic approaches to minimize the risk of laser-induced PIH will be shared.

Use of Er:YAG laser in Dermatology

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SUMMARY

The recent development of the variable-pulse Er:YAG laser has demonstrated a potential application of this treatment approach, especially for dark-skinned patients. The adjustable pulse widths have led to the combination of precise control of ablation with the ability to improve hemostasis and the induction of dermal collagen remodeling by its coagulative property. Applications of the Er:YAG laser in Dermatology will be discussed.

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