

## CANDELA VBEAM PERFECTA THERAPY

The following information will help you to understand how the Candela Vbeam Perfecta is used to clear your vascular lesion.

Please take the time to read this information. If you have any questions, please call the office at 205-682-8022.

How does the Candela Vbeam Perfecta work?

The Candela Vbeam Perfecta produces an intense, but gentle burst of light that selectively destroys blood vessels, without damaging the surrounding tissue. VBeam works great to treat broken blood vessels and redness on the face, blood vessel growths such as cherry angiomas, port wine stains, spider veins and other vascular lesions.

Are there other ways to treat my vascular lesion?

For leg spider veins, some patients have received Sclerotherapy. This mode of therapy has been very effective in the past but can cause hyperpigmentation or pigment discoloration from 6 weeks to 24 months. Also, this mode of therapy can be painful and uncomfortable postoperatively, requiring specific care.

For other types of vascular lesions, such as Port Wine Stain birthmarks, stretch marks, scars, facial spider veins or warts, some patients have tried surgery, electrocautery, cryotherapy (freezing the area), or tattooing. These procedures often result in scarring or may leave an unsatisfactory result.

Other lasers such as the Ruby Laser, Argon Laser, and CO2 Laser have also been used to treat vascular lesions. These lasers are not as specific to the destruction of the blood vessels in the vascular lesions and have resulted in scarring in many individuals. Because of the chance of scarring, the use of these lasers in infants and young children is not recommended.

If you have been treated by other modalities which resulted in scarring or loss of pigment, the lesion may not respond as well with the Candela Laser Therapy. The scarring or loss of pigment may become more evident after treatment with the Vbeam Perfecta.

Are there any reasons that would not make me a candidate for Vbeam Perfecta therapy?

The Candela Vbeam Perfecta is not recommended for patients who are darkly pigmented. Because of the increase in skin pigment the laser will be less effective on damaging the blood vessels of the spider veins or other vascular lesion to be treated.

The depth of penetration of the candela Vbeam Perfecta is limited to vessels about 1.5mm in depth. Therefore, vessels deeper than this may not respond to the therapy. Additionally, blue vessels may not respond as well as red ones.

What should I expect from this laser treatment?

Treatment with the Vbeam Perfecta may consist of multiple treatments, depending on what is being treated and your body's response to treatment. Multiple treatments occur on an average of every four to eight weeks. Each individual situation may vary and it is best to discuss yours with the physician.

Are there any adverse effects?

With any laser therapy there is a possibility for adverse effects. The following are adverse effects that may occur with the Candela Vbeam Perfecta:

1. The treated area(s) may hyperpigment or appear darker after the bruising / red discoloration heals. Normal skin color usually returns within 6 months after laser therapy.
2. Scarring is a risk with the use of any laser. The Candela Vbeam Perfecta has had no reported incidence of scarring. If the post treatment skin care instructions are not followed, this can increase the chance of scarring.
3. The treated area may show a slight depression after the laser treatments. The depression usually resolves within a few months.
4. Bruising is not uncommon after treatment with this laser, but will resolve with time.

Will the laser treatment hurt?

The feeling of a laser pulse has been described as being snapped by a rubber band or a slight stinging sensation. Following laser treatments, the area may continue to sting slightly or feel warm like a sunburn.

If a large area is to be treated, anesthesia may be used. A small test area can be performed before the entire area is treated to evaluate your pain tolerance. Most patients tolerate this procedure without any need for anesthesia. Applying ice packs post operatively can alleviate any discomfort experienced during the procedure.

How long with the laser treatment last?

The duration of your laser treatment depends on the size of the area you wish to have treated.