

IPL (Intense Pulsed Light) Photofacial

Pigmented Lesion Treatment – Clinical Endpoints:

The lesion will eventually darken and crust. Some lesions under the skin will break up into tiny dark particles that come to the surface and look like pepper (“peppering up.”) Crusty areas or “pepper areas” naturally shed by the skin in an average of 7-21 days.

Pigmented Lesion Post-Treatment Guidelines:

The mechanism of pulsed-light pigmented lesion removal is based upon selective destruction of melanocytes and melanosome-containing epidermal keratinocytes. Their destruction is associated with some crusting and epidermal damage, which typically resolves within a 1-4 week period.

- A mild sunburn-like sensation is expected, lasts 2-24 hours but can persist up to 72 hours. Mild swelling and/or redness may accompany this, but it usually resolves in 2-3 days. Apply wrapped ice or gel packs to the treatment area for 10-15 minutes every hour for the next 4 hours, as needed. Never apply ice directly to skin. Ibuprophen, advil, or Tylenol may be taken to reduce discomfort.
- Until redness has resolved, it is recommended to avoid the following:
 - Apply cosmetics to the treated area
 - Swimming, especially in pools with chemicals.
 - Hot tubs and jacuzzis
 - Activities that cause excessive perspiration.
 - Sun exposure to treated areas. Apply an SPF of 45 or greater sunscreen to prevent skin color changes.
 - Aggressive scrubbing and use of exfoliants on the treated area.
- Bathe or shower as usual. Treated areas may be temperature-sensitive.
- The lesion may initially look raised and/or darker with a reddened perimeter

- The lesion will gradually turn darker over the next 24-48 hours. It may turn dark brown or even black.
- The lesion will progress to darkening and/or crusting and will start flaking off in an average of 7-21 days.
- The lesion is usually healed in 21-30 days. It will continue to fade over the next 6-8 weeks.
- **DO NOT PICK OR PULL AT DARKENED LESIONS AS SCARRING MAY OCCUR.**

Pigmented lesion possible side effects:

- Prolonged itching, redness, and blistering.
- Bruising, peeling, rash, lightening or darkening of skin color, ingrown hairs, purpura, crusting, swelling, infection, and removal or lightening of freckles.
- Scarring
- Risk of incidental hair reduction or removal in the treated areas.

Call the treatment provider if side effects occur.