



LASERS

LASER SURGERY IN RHINOPHYMA: A SERIES OF 9 CASES

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Introduction: Rhinophyma is a benign disorder commonly referred to the end-stage of severe rosacea. It is a cosmetically deforming disease that affects mainly men, usually after the age of 50. The therapeutic modalities of this disorder are variable including surgery and electrocoagulation with cosmetic results often disappointing. Ablative CO2 laser is an excellent therapeutic alternative with satisfactory cosmetic results.

Objective: The aim of this study is to demonstrate the interest of the continuous CO2 laser in the treatment of rhinophyma.

Materials and methods: We carried out a retrospective study conducted at the dermatology department of Habib Thameur hospital of Tunis including nine patients with severe rhinophyma treated with continuous CO2 laser.

Results: Nine patients were included (2 females and 7 males). The mean age of our patient was 67 years. All of them were treated with continuous 10600nm CO2 laser (Sharplan and Limmer 1 case, Candella 1 case, Limmer UNILAS 7 cases). The number of sessions varied from two to four (4 sessions in one case and two sessions in 8 cases). No complications were noted. The cosmetic result was excellent and all patients were satisfied with the results. One patient had a recurrence after 5 years.

Conclusion: The CO2 laser treatment of rhinophyma has been evaluated by several studies. It is considered as a gold standard in the treatment of rhinophyma. In this work, the results shows that the advantages of this method were the accuracy of the rhinosculpture, the bloodless surgical field, the rapid cicatrization and the low scar risk. The disadvantages comparing it to the surgery were the longer duration of the operative time and the more expensive cost.

