



LASERS

NON-ABLATIVE, FRACTIONAL ERBIUM GLASS LASER THERAPY FOR THE TREATMENT OF TRAUMA SCARS

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BACKGROUND: Traumatic scars affect a considerable proportion of the population with impact on the quality of life of the patient. Several options have been developed including the traditional full-surface ablative therapy with potential side effects and nonablative therapy with modest results. Fractional non-ablative Erbium Glass laser has the ability to create microscopic columns of coagulated tissue of the epidermis to the dermis evoking a wound healing response and minimizing cumulative injury throughout the treatment field.

OBSERVATION: We report the cases of two young Caucasian women (Fitzpatrick skin type III) with facial traumatic atrophic scars after animal bites who were successfully treated with fractional non-ablative 1540 nm Erbium: glass laser. The patients completed 4 to 6 sessions (4 weeks apart) of the fractional non-ablative 1540 Erbium:glass laser with 3 laser passes in each section. After the procedure they were advised to use sunscreen SPF 50. Both treatments were well tolerated with minimal side effects (immediate erythema and edema which resolved in less than 48 hours) and no restrictions in normal activity. In both cases we observed almost complete resolution of the redness, dyspigmentation and textural irregularity.

KEY-MESSAGE: The non-ablative fractional 1540nm laser is an effective and safe modality for treatment of atrophic traumatic scars with good cosmetic results, particularly improving dyspigmentation and textural irregularities with minimal side effects.

