



WOUND HEALING

POST OPERATIVE LOWER LIP WOUND AFTER VASCULAR LASER FOR HEMANGIOMA

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Background: Hemangiomas are benign vascular tumors affecting the skin and mucosa of patients of any age. Some may develop in early infancy, while some develop in adulthood. Most often in adults they are located on the head and neck area or on the trunk. Their evolution is benign, but can bleed if traumatized. Some enlarge to the extent that they become unaesthetic, especially on the face, and therefore patients resort to specific treatment, such as vascular lasers.

Observation: A 66-year old female patient presented to our Dermatology practice with a circular, well-defined, slightly bleeding painful ulceration of the lower lip. She had undergone a vascular laser treatment 10 days prior for a lip hemangioma she had had for many years and that had become displeasing, but received no specific dressing afterwards. Five days prior to our consult she had addressed the physician who performed the procedure due to the fact that her wound showed no sign of healing, was bleeding and produced significant discomfort. The patient was then recommended to use neomycin powder and a haemostatic sponge, but the ulceration however did not heal. Upon examination we found an otherwise healthy patient, with no other cause for healing impairment apart from lack of targeted therapy. We started her on a local treatment with pulverized oxitetracyclin and hydrocortisone combination twice daily and a skincare balm designed for use after dermatological procedures. Seven days later the ulceration was reduced to half its size, and 10 days later it had healed completely.

Key message: Wound follow-up after dermatological procedures is of paramount importance, due to the fact that lack of healing may be a cause for distress for the patient, sometimes greater than the lesion itself.

