



LASERS

AN ULTRASTRUCTURAL-BASED COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF LIGHT-BASED SKIN REJUVENATION MODALITIES

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Background: Skin rejuvenation has become a very much sought-after and patient-driven goal, and a number of light-based modalities with varying degrees of invasiveness have attracted attention. Ultrastructural assessment of post-treatment effects which suggest the mechanisms behind skin rejuvenation could be a useful way to compare a cross-section of popular modalities.

Aims: Patients increasingly require effective skin rejuvenation with minimal downtime, so minimally- to noninvasive approaches have become more sought after. The present study compares the sequence of events in the skin following treatment with minimally-invasive laser, intense pulsed light (IPL) and noninvasive light-emitting diode (LED) approaches from a histological standpoint using light microscopy and transmission electron microscopy (TEM). Systems compared were an LED phototherapy system (633 nm), an IPL system (530 nm – 750 nm), a pulsed dye laser (585 nm), and a fractional CO₂ laser (10,600 nm)

Results: From the light microscopy and TEM findings the stages after treatment were basically similar for the laser-treated skin, and followed the usual wound-healing process. In the IPL-treated group skin damage was minimal with changes more limited to the degree of pigmentation than to general architectural changes. In the LED-treated skin, a fully atraumatic response was seen with beneficial fibroplastic changes over time noted in the fibroblasts, potentially suggesting neocollagenesis accompanied by mast cell degranulation.

Conclusions: With the laser systems used in the current study, beneficial changes in skin architecture were observed over time suggestive of rejuvenation of photoaged skin, occurring reasonably quickly.

