



LASERS

## WHEN LIGHT TURNS DARK: LASER SIDE EFFECTS AND COMPLICATIONS

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**Introduction:** Laser treatments provide options to address both medical and aesthetic dermatologic conditions and needs. However, side effects and complications can inadvertently arise despite the best intentions of physicians and clinicians.

**Objective:** This presentation reviews potential side effects and complications secondary to laser treatments used for various cutaneous applications.

**Results:** Potential side effects of laser treatments may include herpes simplex reactivation, prolonged erythema, dermatitis, acne exacerbation, infection, dyspigmentation, scarring and ectropion.

**Conclusion:** Proper patient and laser selection for the targeted dermatologic condition is essential. This includes using proper laser parameters and techniques that are appropriate for the clinical context. Identifying and managing side effects and complications secondary to laser treatments early is paramount.

