

## **POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS AFTER LASER ABRASION**

You will remember that upon the initial laser abrasion, there was a stinging pain for several seconds, which soon disappeared.

Later today you can expect two things:

- a) a recurrence of the stinging pain for four to six hours
- b) swelling (occasionally this may be severe depending upon the area treated).

The pain generally lasts from four to six hours; it can usually be relieved by taking one or two of the pain tablets every three to four hours and by the application of an ice bag or ice compresses during this time. (NOTE: A very satisfactory ice bag can be made by putting crushed ice in a small plastic zip-lock bag, which can be obtained at most grocery stores.)

Try not to move the treated area excessively (keep your lips stiff and avoid grimacing).

Within 24 to 36 hours, you will notice that the treated area resembles a deep sunburn, and you may notice serum exuding from the skin; this is to be expected.

Approximately 24 hours following the peel gently wash the treated area with tap water and apply the \_\_\_\_\_ . This procedure should be repeated five (5) or six (6) times a day; use your hands or cotton ball, not a wash cloth.

**NEVER PICK AT CRUSTS OR PIECES OF SKIN THAT DO NOT LOOSEN EASILY. APPLY THE SOFTENING CREAMS TO THEM AND THEY SHOULD COME OFF EASILY WITH TIME.**

You will now have delicate new skin which must toughen during the next few days.

Within 7-8 days you should be able to use makeup over the area. We will discuss this during your office visit.

The intense pink color will fade rapidly, but a pink coloration will remain from six to eight weeks. The skin will remain somewhat tense and smooth with diminution of the finer wrinkles and the deep grooves much less evident. Occasionally small "whiteheads" may appear in the treated areas; these usually disappear in two or three weeks without specific treatment. Patients who are prone to develop "fever blisters or cold sores" occasionally have an exacerbation of these lesions. If they should occur, call the office and we will prescribe treatment for them.

Try to avoid direct rays of sun for at least six to eight weeks since blotching of the treated area may appear if the new delicate skin is exposed too early. The treated areas should be protected for three to six months by large brimmed hats and a sunscreen product (such as Uval or Presun) if you are to be exposed for prolonged periods. This means that sunning oneself, golfing, fishing, tennis or similar activities during the sunny parts of the day should be avoided during this six to eight week period.

If any other questions arise in your mind or anything should develop that you are uncertain about, do not hesitate to telephone us at any time.

We want to see you again on \_\_\_\_\_; please make every attempt to keep this appointment since it is vitally important that we monitor your healing.