



## YAG/Starwalker Laser

Q-Switch YAG laser can treat brown spots on the skin caused by several different factors such as age, sun exposure or other environmental influences. These spots are often referred to as age spots, sunspots, or liver spots. These spots can be tan or brown in colour and may appear flat and freckle-like. The YAG laser can also treat brown-based birthmarks such as Café au lait spots, pigmented lesions, and tattoos. The YAG laser emits short pulses of light energy, targeting the excess pigment or melanin, which is found in the superficial layers of the skin. The area being treated will absorb this light, destroying and breaking down that pigmentation. This does not affect the surrounding areas, as it will only target the abnormal concentrations of pigmentation. The result will leave the skin with a more uniform colour and texture. This laser was designed to target the abnormal concentrations of melanin in the skin. Some birthmarks can resurface after treatment anywhere from several months to a year. The treatment can be repeated with similar results. In some cases, the patient may notice whitening of the area has occurred. The body will naturally regenerate and replace the normal amount of melanin after a period, returning the skin to its natural colour again.

### Details of Procedure:

The laser is usually very well tolerated and feels like an elastic band being snapped on the skin. However, the area(s) are first frozen with local anesthetic for your comfort through the Laser treatment.

### Post Treatment Care:

Patients may feel the sensation of a slight sunburn after treatment, which can be reduced by using ice packs. Redness can remain anywhere from approximately 2-4 weeks. Any discomfort in the treatment area will subside within a day or two. Blistering may also occur, or very minor pinpoint bleeding. However, this would be quite rare. Antibacterial ointment (Fucidin) is applied to the area post treatment. The area must be kept clean, and the ointment should be applied regularly. Showers can be taken the following day, but the area should not be scrubbed. Please ask questions if any instructions are not completely clear. It is very important that all patients apply sun protection, and try to avoid any excess sun exposure, up to 6 weeks following their treatment. An SPF of 60 is preferable and can be purchased in the Skin Spa at any time.



## Possible Risks:

A small test patch can be performed prior to treatment to see how the patient will respond. Patients who have trouble with healing, or who tend to scar may want to consider the risks very carefully, as this may not be the appropriate procedure. If any of the spots are suspected to be malignant or pre-malignant, the physician will perform a biopsy prior to treatment to determine if it is safe to proceed. The risk of scarring is between one and five percent and the risk of increased or decreased pigmentation are as high as 30%, although this is usually only temporary. Full details of possible side effects are listed on the consent form that the patient must read and sign prior to any treatments.

## Products to Compliment the Procedure:

Skin TX is a skin care system designed to target and improve facial pigmentation and rejuvenate the skin, which can be used in combination with the Yag Laser to optimize your results. Also, Dermatrix is a topical scar gel that can be applied to the affected area post healing to improve the final treatment outcome.

SPF and sun avoidance is a necessity with any laser procedure, but especially when targeting pigment on the skin.

*\*Please Note-- We do require a 20% deposit when booking all procedures please.*

*Also, due to the large volume of bookings, we do require 48 hours' notice of cancellation. The cancellation fee is \$50.00 for every ½ hour of appointment time that is cancelled without the appropriate 48 hours' notice. If purchasing packages of treatments, please be advised that packages will last a full year from the date of the first treatment.*