

Common questions for IPL therapy

1. What is it?

Intense Pulsed light applied at specific wavelengths to the skin to treat varying conditions. A filter is used so that the wavelength is specific to the target in the skin.

2. What machine do you have?

We have a second generation physician strength IPL. This means that the output can be controlled specifically for each condition. Other units offer pulsed light at broad wavelengths and high intensity. Our unit is adaptable with filtered handpieces so that it can use specific wavelengths to treat individual conditions with a lower intensity.

This means less pain during treatment and a reduced number of treatments required to treat the condition.

The wavelength on our unit has an upper and lower limit. Other IPL's have a lower limit only. Water in the skin begins to heat at higher temperatures, as generated by higher level wavelengths. As our unit has a high wavelength limit, the chance of the light heating the water in the skin is much reduced. This means you have a much-reduced risk of burning or skin damage from heat.

3. How does the IPL work?

The wavelength is set specifically to target cells within the skin or hair. For example, to treat uneven pigment, the target in the skin is the melanin (the pigment producing cell). The light destroys the pigment cell through selective thermolysis (or heat).

4. How many treatments are required?

Generally speaking for hair removal 6-10 treatments are required about 4 - 8 weeks apart.

5. How long does an average treatment take?

For a Bikini & Underarms allow about 45 minutes for treatment. Treatment time depends on the size of the area to be treated.

6. How much does it cost?

It depends on the size of the area to be treated. For hair removal the bikini area generally costs between \$165 - \$250 per treatment.

7. Does it hurt?

Some mild to moderate discomfort can be experienced – similar to a rubber band hitting the skin. A feeling of sunburn to the skin may exist for several hours following treatment.

8. Are there any after effects?

For treatment for pigment, there may be some brownness and crusting on the skin for a week or so following treatment. Redness may be evident immediately following treatment. For hair removal, some redness to the area following the treatment.

9. Who can't have this treatment?

Darker skin types. Pregnant and lactating women. Epileptics. Diabetics.

10. What can it treat?

Uneven pigmentation and sun damage to the skin. Mild to moderate active acne, unwanted hair, small blood vessels on the skin.