

Cancellations

- Please let us know as soon as possible if you think that you might not be able to make your appointment.
- Cancellations made within two weeks of an appointment often result in empty appointment slots as these are very difficult to fill at such short notice.
- Please let us know of any dates or times which may be unsuitable when booking your next appointment (usually 4-6 weeks apart).

Senior staff at the Laser Clinic

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If you need this information in another language or medium (audio, large print, etc) please contact Customer Care on 0800 374 208 email: customer care@salisbury.nhs.uk.

You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk if you would like a reference list.

If you are unhappy with the advice you have been given by your GP, consultant, or another healthcare professional, you may ask for a second (or further) opinion.

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Welcome to The Salisbury Laser Clinic

Fine Skin Crease Lines and Mild Acne Scarring

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People with slight or mild irregularities in the skin can be treated with the Fractionated Erbium YAG laser. This is a relatively new service that we are offering at the Laser Clinic.

It is a method of treatment that is used quite widely in Germany and the USA but is relatively new in the UK.

How the laser works

- Laser light is fired onto the skin in a series of small dots. These dots of light produce a healing response in the skin, which stimulates new collagen being formed. This leads to some tightening of the skin and improvement in fine surface irregularities. It is also thought to have some local effects on hypertrophic scars, which encourage scar remodelling.
- A regular pattern of fine dots may be noticeable after the treatment. This would be expected to last no longer than about five days. It is perfectly reasonable to use make-up during that time.
- If you have a cold sore or other skin infection in the area to be treated, please inform the laser clinic staff as treatment must be delayed until the area is completely healed.

- If the area to be treated is on your leg, please wear loose trousers or a skirt. Tight clothes, like jeans, may irritate the area after treatment.

Number of treatments

- It is recommended that at least two treatments are performed with an interval of about six weeks. This gap is needed to get the maximum benefit from the treatment.
- It is not necessary to do a test treatment first because the laser is so well tolerated.
- Photographs are taken before and after treatment to monitor progress.

How the treatment feels

- When you arrive, you will meet the clinic staff involved in the laser treatment. They will explain the treatment to you.
- The pulses of laser feel rather like elastic band flicks. No anaesthetic is necessary for most treatments.
- In some situations, if there is no effect from the normal treatment levels, higher levels can be used. In those situations occasionally local anaesthetic injections may be offered, for example in the treatment of thick (hypertrophic) scars.

After treatment

- The treated areas have a fine dot pattern to them and, in the cases where only very low laser levels are needed, these disappear within a few days. With stronger energy levels they may still be visible up to five days after treatment.
- It takes several weeks to see the effect of treatment. The treatment can easily be repeated if necessary.
- As this treatment almost never requires any anaesthetic or dressings, it can be done as a simple walk-in walk-out procedure with minimal down time.

If you cannot keep your appointment, please notify us as soon as possible.