

The uRepublic Guide to ClearScan Laser Hair Removal

Whatever your skin type, from extremely fair to extremely dark, ClearScan Laser Hair Removal is a very effective and safe way to remove unwanted hair. Its effects are long term to permanent hair reduction, and the process is quicker and more efficient than electrolysis. And as it can be safely used with sun-tanned skin, it's very popular with those leading an active outdoor lifestyle. It's also safe enough to be used on all body parts, including the face, back, underarms, bikini line, legs, and arms.

Can all skin colours be treated?

Yes, all skin types – I through VI – can be treated. Skin Type I is very fair, always burns, never tans (usually blonde hair and blue eyes). Skin Type VI is dark and never burns (black skin, black hair).

Can tanned skin be treated?

Tanned skin can be treated safely, but always inform your physician if you have been tanning or exposed to the sun within the last three weeks, and he will adjust your treatment regime accordingly to give you the safest and most effective experience.

Can in-grown hair be treated?

The infrared energy delivered by ClearScan can be used to remove all types of hair. Sometimes 'shaving bumps' can cover a follicle, but the penetrating light of the ClearScan can still be safely and effectively used.

Can pseudo-folliculitis be treated?

Yes. Pseudofolliculitis is a type of chronic acne disorder caused by ingrown coarse or curly hairs. This disorder affects all skin types especially darker skin types, and the infrared energy delivered by ClearScan is the preferred method of treatment.

What happens during hair removal treatment?

Your practitioner will discuss the treatment with you and decide if you need a topical anaesthetic cream. The area of your skin to be treated will be scanned with laser light. Treatment time will depend on the area being treated. A system for cooling you skin will be used to remove heat as it leaves the follicles, providing the most comfortable treatment possible. But as sensation varies from individual to individual, a topical anaesthesia can be provided. Let your physician know if you are very sensitive. Protective eyewear is required during treatment as the reflected light can be very bright.

How does it work?

The ClearScan laser selectively targets your hair follicles and heats them with infrared energy. Unlike other processes, the laser beam treats many hairs at once making treatment of large areas practical. The ClearScan Laser employs a unique computer-guided scanning system that automates the treatment, ensuring your skin is rapidly and evenly treated. The computer sets the parameters and places the beam in an optimum pattern for your skin. You will have a safe, fast, effective, and gentle treatment.

What should I expect after treatment?

Some redness and slight swelling may be present in the area that's been treated, but this should subside within a few hours. If any prolonged redness or swelling occurs, please consult your practitioner.

Keep the area clean; use at least SPF 15 sunscreen when outdoors.

Is the treatment permanent?

On average, each laser treatment will be associated with some permanent hair loss. So in most cases permanent hair removal can only be achieved after several treatments. The number of treatments will depend on each patient's individual response to laser therapy, and the amount of hair to be removed. Remember that the goal may not be total hair removal. Many patients are happy with a reasonable degree of hair reduction. Also remember that the hair that remains is often lighter in color and thinner than the original hair. As with other treatments for unwanted hair, there is no guarantee that laser hair removal treatment will be permanent.

How many treatments will I need?

You may need to be treated about 5–10 times at approximately 4–8 week intervals. There are three phases of hair growth – anagen, catagen, and telogen. Only hairs in the active growth or anagen phase, can be successfully treated. Usually only 20% of the hair is in anagen phase, which is why several serial treatments are necessary to ultimately target 100% of the hair follicles.

Does treatment hurt? What can I expect with the procedure?

Most patients describe Clearscan laser hair removal as feeling 'prickly', or like the light snap of a rubber band against the skin. Afterwards, it might feel like a bad sunburn – each patient has his or her own level of skin sensitivity and pain threshold. Different areas on the body are also more sensitive than others.

On the day of your treatment, plan to wear clothing that will allow easy access to the area being treated. You may not need any type of anaesthesia for your treatments. Clearscan laser hair removal works best on hair that's 1–2 millimetres in length (longer hair may need to be shaved). No specific care is needed after the treatment.

How long will it take my skin to heal?

Normally the skin just looks red and swollen for up to 48 hours, or possibly longer. Some patients will be offered to have a small area tested before undergoing a full treatment. This gives them an idea of how the treatment will feel, and the length of time it will take to obtain the desired result. Occasionally, patients can develop a blistering reaction. If this happens, call your treating practitioner and ask for specific post-laser treatment options.

What will I look like immediately afterwards?

Generally, some redness will remain for approximately 1–2 days. For some patients recovery time will be even shorter, while other patients may have more prolonged redness.

What are the unwanted side effects of Laser hair removal?

Uncommonly the laser may cause blisters and burns to the skin. This may result in pigmentary changes such as darkening or lightening of the affected areas. Scarring may develop (exceedingly rare). Rarely, the treated area may show paradoxical increased hair growth. The increased hair growth tends to settle with time (up to 1–2 years) but may be permanent.

Is Laser hair removal suitable for everyone?

We do not treat:

- Pregnant or breast-feeding women
- Children under the age of 18 without parental consent
- Any area where current significant skin disease or infections such as cold sores are present
- Any emotional, mental or medical condition that may impair judgment