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Frequently Asked Questions for Broadband Light Treatments (BBL™)

What is the Broadband Light?

The IPL is a “non-ablative” treatment for the skin that minimizes the signs of aging and sun-damage by removal of brown spots, pigment, red veins and the “blush” (tiny capillaries) of rosacea.

What is “non-ablative”?

A “non-ablative” treatment leaves your skin intact and undamaged. The pulse emits light that passes easily through the upper layers of your skin to the unwanted red and brown pigment underneath. The light is absorbed by these pigments and transformed into heat that damages the irregularities. As an additional benefit, your skin’s collagen framework is enhanced.

How many treatments can I expect?

It may take several treatments to get the desired results. We say expect up to 4-6 but, in most cases, it can take less and in rare cases, not help at all. You can be treated every 4-6 weeks.

What does it feel like?

It may feel like a rubber band snap but is usually very minimal. Unlike most broadband light systems, no numbing creams or gels are required.

What can I expect after treatment?

It may feel like a slight sunburn sensation for a few days following the treatment. In some cases, it may look like a superficial burn and, in rare cases, a blister may appear. It is very important to follow all post treatment instructions and stay out of the sun for at least a 4 week period pre and post treatment to avoid irritation to the treated area. If you cannot avoid sun exposure, then a sunscreen of no less than 30 SPF should be used.

How does the BBL compare with other types of treatments, such as chemical peels, laser resurfacing and Microdermabrasion?

These procedures both aggressively remove the upper layers of skin and can be painful. They typically require several days to several weeks of healing time. They are not recommended for the use on hands or chest. Microdermabrasion removes only the most superficial layers of the skin. It cannot treat the underlying pigment or redness.

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