

Test Patch – what to look for

Test patches are carried out to determine the treatment parameters and to judge how your skin might react to a full treatment. A test patch is a small trial and allows the practitioner to assess how well the light energy is being absorbed and whether the skin is responding as would be expected.

Please make a note of any redness, swelling or discomfort and how long it takes to reduce following the test patch, also whether or not the skin blisters or feels excessively hot, and for how long

Pre-Treatment Advice

1. The area to be treated should be free from make-up, perfume, and body or face creams.
2. Avoid waxing, plucking, hair removal creams and bleaching for at least 7 days before treatment.
3. Please stop the use of topical retinoids and other strong cosmetic products for at least 2 weeks before treatment and the use of glycolic products for at least 7 days before treatment.
4. There should be no active or fake tan in the area to be treated. Use of sunbeds or prolonged exposure to sunlight is not allowed in the month prior to treatment and Lynton Light Protect Daily Defence SPF50 or an SPF30+ must be used on the area between treatments. Suntans must be left to fade completely before treatment can start. Fake tans must also be fully faded before treatment can commence.
5. We reserve the right to charge for any appointment booked but abandoned due to active sun tan or fake tan.
6. A medical history is taken at consultation, but we rely on you to inform us of any changes to this. We need to know of any medication you are taking including those bought from a chemist or herbalist.
7. Make sure that you arrive in good time for your appointment; this will allow us to pre-cool the skin if this should be required.

Post-Treatment Advice

1. In order to minimise skin heating and to reduce the likelihood of skin reactions, the treatment area may be cooled before, during and after the procedure. If the area still feels hot at home, you can apply a cold flannel or cool pack. Do not allow ice packs or ice into direct contact with the skin.
2. Following treatment, you may experience mild stinging, dryness, itching, mild grazing, flakiness, sensitivity to UV or slight redness. This is completely normal and should settle over the next few days.
3. Occasionally you may experience swelling or bruising and this can last anything from 1-2 days up to 1-2 weeks. If you experience swelling, it is usually worse one to two days following treatment. If it follows a treatment to a facial area, sleeping with your head raised on pillows will minimise its appearance. Cool packs will also help to reduce the swelling. If your skin is particularly sensitive and prone to histamine reactions, you may also wish to consider taking an anti-histamine medication.
4. Following vascular treatments, a bruise may appear at the treated area. This may last up to 15 days and as the bruise fades there may be brown discolouration of the skin. This usually fades in 1-3 months. When larger vessels are treated, they may take on a darker colour. Again, this may take up to four weeks to resolve as the body re-absorbs the damaged vessels.
5. Following pigmentation treatments, the lesion may appear darker – this is normal. Over the following weeks it may form microcrusts which will flake away over the coming days. Do not exfoliate the area and allow the microcrusts to fall away naturally.

6. Make-up can be applied after several hours if the skin is not sore or broken. However, we advise caution if the area is feeling sensitive. Remove make up carefully as rubbing the skin can cause irritation or infection. If the skin at the treatment area becomes broken, then make-up should be avoided.
7. Care should be taken to avoid trauma to the treated area for 4 or 5 days after treatment. Avoid strenuous activities, sauna and steam, excessively hot baths, massaging etc. and avoid wearing tight clothing on the treated area.
8. Wash and bathe as normal but take cool showers rather than hot baths. The skin should be patted dry and not rubbed. Use Lynton Light Soothe serum to reduce irritation and keep the area moisturised and the skin protected. If there is any discomfort, treat the area as you would sunburn.
9. Use Lynton Light Protect Daily Defense SPF50 or an SPF 30+ to protect the area from sunlight as much as possible between treatments and for at least one month after treatment ends. Failure to do this can lead to sunburn and hyper-pigmentation of the treated area. (Most cases of changes in pigmentation occur when the treated area has been exposed to sunlight, or in people with darker skin types).
10. If blistering occurs, contact the clinic immediately for further advice. Keep the area clean and dry and allow to heal naturally. Do not use any lotions or creams on open skin as this may increase the risk of infection. DO NOT pick grazes or blisters – as this may increase the chance of a scar occurring. Once the skin has healed, a high protection sunscreen should be used daily for 12 months to prevent pigmentation changes to the skin.

