

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**AESTHETIC LASERS & IPL**  
**Physics, Applications, Safety**

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**I. Visible Light Spectrum**

- A. Visible Light
  - 1. Frequency
- B. Biophysics of Light
  - 1. Photobiological Process of Cells
    - a. Aesthetic Medicine
  - 2. Health Sciences
    - a. Indications
  - 3. Types of Light Therapy
- C. Wavelengths of Visible Light/Infrared Light Spectrum
  - 1. Blue
  - 2. Red
  - 3. Intense Pulsed Light
  - 4. Laser
- D. Part I Recap/Discussion

**II. Laser Physics**

- A. Laser History
- B. Physics/Laser Physics
- C. Characteristics of Laser Light
  - 1. Laser Physics
    - a. Atoms, Electrons
    - b. Photons
- D. Laser Mediums
  - 1. The Emission Absorption Principle
    - a. Spontaneous Emission
    - b. Stimulated Emission
- E. Laser Beam
  - 1. Optical Amplification
  - 2. Spot Size

**F. Components of a Laser System**

1. Lasing Medium/Active Medium
  - a. Active Lasing Mediums
    - (1) Gas
    - (2) Solid
    - (3) Liquid
  - b. Characteristics of Active Medium
2. Excitation Mechanism
  - a. Excitation Mechanisms
    - (1) Optical Pumping
    - (2) Electron Collision Pumping
    - (3) Chemical Pumping
  - b. Characteristics of Excitation Mechanism
3. Optical Cavity/Resonator
  - a. Optical Cavity Resonators
    - (1) High Reflectance Mirror
    - (2) Output Coupler Mirror
  - b. Characteristics of Optical Cavity/Resonator
4. Summary; Fundamentals of Laser Operation/Generation

**G. Characteristics of Laser Light**

1. Diffraction
2. Coherent
3. Coherent vs. Incoherent Light
4. Monochromatic Wavelength

**H. Laser Chromophores**

1. Water
2. Melanin
3. Hemoglobin

**I. Light Spectrums**

1. Visible Light
  - a. Laser Chromophores
2. Infrared Light
  - a. Laser Chromophores
  - b. Chromophore Absorption
    - (1) Laser Wavelengths

- J. Selective Photothermolysis
  - 1. Photothermolysis
  - 2. Selective Photothermolysis
    - a. Electromagnetic Spectrum
    - b. Absorption Coefficient
  - 3. Parameters of Selective Photothermolysis
    - a. Fluence
    - b. Pulsed Width
    - c. Thermal Relaxation Time
      - (1) Fitzpatrick Phototypes III-VI
    - d. Wavelength
      - (1) Chromophores
      - (2) Absorption Curve, Selected Chromophore
      - (3) Wavelength Depth of Penetration
- K. Part II Recap/Discussion

### **III. Laser Applications; Physiology, Ethnicity**

- A. Laser Applications in Aesthetic Medicine
- B. Cutaneous Physiology
- C. Ethnicity
  - 1. Fitzpatrick Skin Prototype
    - a. Parameters of Selective Photothermolysis
    - b. Laser Parameter Sheet
    - c. Fitzpatrick Evaluation
    - d. Patient Selection
    - e. Fitzpatrick Ethnic Classification
      - (1) Asian Skin
      - (2) African Skin
  - 2. Lancer Ethnicity Scale
    - a. Determining Lancer Rating
  - 3. Genetico Racial Classification
    - a. Genetico Racial Classifications
- D. Part III Recap/Discussion

## **IV. Types of Lasers, Laser Applications**

- A. Types of Lasers
  - 1. Continuous Wave Laser
  - 2. Pulsed Laser
  - 3. Q-Switched Laser
- B. Types of Cosmetic Lasers
  - 1. Resurfacing Lasers
    - a. Non-Ablative
    - b. Ablative
  - 2. Summary Resurfacing Lasers
- C. Non-Ablative Lasers
  - 1. KTP Laser
    - a. Physics
    - b. Indications
    - c. Green Light/Blue Light Comparison
  - 2. Pulsed Dye Laser
    - a. Physics
    - b. Indications
  - 3. Red Light Lasers
    - a. Q-Switched Ruby Laser
      - (1) Physics
      - (2) Biophysics
    - b. Q-Switched Alexandrite Laser
      - (1) Physics
      - (2) Biophysics
  - 4. Diode Laser
    - a. Physics
    - b. Indications
  - 5. Picosecond Laser
    - a. Physics
    - b. Indications
  - 6. Q-Switched 1064 Nd:YAG Laser
    - a. Physics
    - b. Indications
    - c. Treating Fitzpatrick III-VI
  - 7. Microsecond Pulsed 1064 Nd:YAG Laser
    - a. Physics
    - b. Indications
    - c. Parameter Sheet

8. Fraxel Laser
  - a. Physics
  - b. Indications
9. Fraxel Dual Laser
  - a. Physics
  - b. Indications
- D. Ablative Lasers
  1. Erbium Laser
    - a. Physics
    - b. Micro Laser Peel
    - c. Indications
  2. CO2 Laser
  3. Fractional CO2 Laser
    - a. Dermal Layers of the Skin
    - b. Indications
    - c. Ablative
    - d. Non-Ablative
    - e. Percutaneous Collagen Induction
  4. Comparison; CO2 Laser/Fractional CO2 Laser
- E. Summary; Ablative Resurfacing Lasers
- F. Part IV Recap/Discussion

## V. Tissue Regeneration

- A. Regenerating Therapy
  1. Ablative Laser
- B. GHK Copper Peptides
  1. Function
  2. Properties
  3. Bioactive Benefits
  4. Role of Copper in Skin Rejuvenation
    - a. Acute Phase Healing
    - b. Remodeling Phase Healing

C. Human Growth Factors

1. Function
    - a. Cytokines
    - b. Interleukins
    - c. Fibroblasts
    - d. Hyaluronic Acid
      - (1) Hyaluronan
      - (2) Synergistic Benefits
  2. Neonatal Stem Cells
    - a. Physiology
      - (1) Hypoxic Environment
      - (2) Normoxic Environment
  3. Skin Barrier
    - a. Hypoxic Environment
    - b. Skin Barrier Function
- D. Processed Skin Cell Proteins
1. Physiology
  2. Benefits
- E. Atelocollagen
1. Collagen
  2. Atelocollagen
    - a. Properties
    - b. Benefits
- F. Part V Recap/Discussion

## **VI. Lasers in Dermatology and Medicine**

### **A. Cosmetic Lasers**

1. Managing Skin Conditions
  - a. Melasma
    - (1) Laser Modalities to Manage Melasma
    - (2) Managing Darker Skin Tones
  - b. Extrinsic Aging/Scarring
    - (1) Laser Modalities to Manage Extrinsic Aging, Scars, Texture
  - c. Telangiectasia/Broken Capillaries
    - (1) Laser Modalities to Manage Telangiectasias
    - (2) Laser Modalities to Manage Melasma
    - (3) Laser Modalities to Manage Fitzpatrick III-VI
  - d. Sebaceous Glands
    - (1) Laser Modalities to Manage Enlarged Sebaceous Glands
2. Excimer Laser
  - a. Physics
  - b. Indications

### **B. Laser Applications in Medicine**

1. Types of Laser Ablation
2. Various Cancer Indications
  - a. Treatment of Brain Tumors
3. Laser Induced Interstitial Thermotherapy
4. Photodynamic Therapy
  - a. Cutaneous Indications
  - b. Treatment of Dermatological Entities
  - c. Intrinsic Indications
  - d. Various Carcinomas

### **C. Part VI Recap/Discussion**

## **VII. Laser Safety**

- A. Legal Statutes
- B. Regulatory Agencies
  - 1. Federal Laser Product Performance Standards
  - 2. Occupational Safety & Health Administration
  - 3. Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
  - 4. Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care
  - 5. The International Electrotechnical Commission
    - a. Safety of Laser Products IEC 60825
  - 6. American National Standards Institute
  - 7. OSHA/ANSI Regulations/Litigation
- C. Health Care Delivery Organizations
  - 1. Medical Specialties
    - a. Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN)
    - b. Association of Surgical Technologies (AST)
- D. Safe Use of Lasers in a Healthcare Facility ANSI Z136.3
  - 1. Laser Safety Officer
  - 2. Safety Control Measures
    - a. Engineering Controls
    - b. Administrative Controls
    - c. Procedural Controls
      - (1) Standard Operating Procedures/Manual
  - 3. Laser Hazards
    - a. Maximum Permissible Exposure
      - (1) Assessable Emission Limit
      - (2) Limiting Aperture
    - b. Nominal Hazard Zone
  - 4. Laser Treatment Controlled Area
    - a. Laser Classification
    - b. Entry Warning Signs
  - 5. LTCA/Ocular Hazards
  - 6. Anatomy/Physiology of the Human Eye
    - a. Cornea
    - b. Iris
    - c. Lens
    - d. Vitreous Humor
    - e. Retina
      - (1) Retinal Periphery
    - f. Macula

- g. Fovea
    - (1) Results of Injured Fovea
  - 7. Laser Wavelengths/Optical Response
    - a. Ultraviolet Wavelengths
    - b. Visible Light Wavelengths
    - c. Near Infrared Wavelengths
      - (1) Optimal Gain
    - d. Far Infrared Wavelengths
    - e. Eye Injury Hazards
      - (1) Wavelength of Laser/Class of Laser
    - f. Laser Protective Eyewear
  - 8. LTCA/Laser Hazards
    - a. Plume/Airborne Contaminants
    - b. Reflection
    - c. Protective Barrier/Curtains
    - d. Compressed Gases
      - (1) OSHA
      - (2) Compressed Gas Association
    - e. Explosion Hazards
    - f. Electrical Hazards
    - g. Flammability
- E. Mechanical Operating Safety
- 1. Laser Testing
  - 2. Laser Calibration
  - 3. Laser Control Panel
    - a. Master Switch Control
    - b. Key Placement/Fines
    - c. Stand-By Mode/Beam Stop/Attenuator
  - 4. Foot Pedal Controls
  - 5. Electrical Controls
  - 6. Laser Maintenance
  - 7. Documentation
  - 8. Laser Safety Audits
- F. Liability
- 1. Standard of Care/Tort Law
  - 2. Standard of Practice/ANSI
  - 3. National Standards/Regulations
  - 4. State Regulations
    - a. Medical Boards
  - 5. Liability Insurance
  - 6. Accident/Incident Investigation

- G. Training Requirements
- H. Practicing Safety, Safely
  - 1. ANSI/AORN Standards
  - 2. Knowledge of Laser Physics
  - 3. Knowledge of cutaneous Physiology
  - 4. Proper Patient Intake
  - 5. Preventing Side Effects
- I. Part VII Recap/Discussion

## **VII. Intense Pulsed Light**

- A. Intense Pulsed Light
  - 1. Chromophores
  - 2. IPL/Radiofrequency
  - 3. Indications

## **VIII. Intense Pulsed Light Physics**

- A. IPL Physics
  - 1. Incoherent Light Source
  - 2. Refraction of Light
    - a. Snell's Law of Refraction
    - b. Light Skin vs. Dark Skin
  - 3. Photothermolysis
    - a. Selective Photothermolysis
    - b. Fluence
    - c. Pulsed Width
    - d. Densely Pigmented Target/Skin
    - e. Wavelength
    - f. IPL Parameters
    - g. Comparison; IPL/Laser
- B. Part IX Recap/Discussion

## **VIII. Cutaneous Physiology**

- A. Inflammation
  - 1. Melanogenesis
- B. Patient Selection
  - 1. Fitzpatrick Skin Phototype
  - 2. Lancer Ethnicity Scale
- C. Melanocytes/Tyrosinase
  - 1. Limiting Melanogenesis
  - 2. Pigment Inhibitory Agents
- D. Part X Recap/Discussion

## **IX. Managing Skin Conditions**

- A. Biophysics
- B. Indications
- C. Factors to Consider
  - 1. Photosensitizers
  - 2. Skin Type/Ethnicity
  - 3. Cutaneous Physiology
  - 4. Severity of Pigmentation
  - 5. Parameter Sheet
  - 6. Patch Test/Tissue Response
- D. Hyperpigmentation
  - 1. Biophysics
  - 2. Cutaneous Conditions
    - a. Sun Damage
    - b. Pigmented Lesions
  - 3. Parameters

- E. Vascularities
  - 1. Biophysics
  - 2. Indications
  - 3. Parameters
    - a. Superficial/Smaller Vessels
    - b. Deeper/Larger Vessels
- F. IPL vs. Laser
  - 1. Vascular Parameters
- G. Part XI Recap/Discussion

## X. **IPL Safety**

- A. FDA Regulations
- B. Standard of Practice
  - 1. ANSI
- C. Standard of Care
  - 1. Treatment Goals
    - a. Pre/Post-Operative Expectations
  - 2. Contraindications
  - 3. Informed Consent
  - 4. Medical/Health History
- D. Preventing Liability
  - 1. Training
    - a. ANSI/MLSO
  - 2. State Licensing Boards
  - 3. Liability Insurance
- E. Malpractice Case
  - 1. Discussion
- F. Part XII Recap/Discussion

