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Laser versus intense pulsed light: Competing technologies in dermatology

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KEYWORDS

laser • intense pulsed light • skin • technology • rejuvenation

ABSTRACT

Lasers have been competing with non-laser intense pulsed light (IPL) sources in the cosmetic arena over the past 10 years. Initially IPLs were somewhat cumbersome and accepted by a minority of “serious” practitioners. Recently, however, the popularity of full-face visible light skin rejuvenation, enhanced engineering of IPLs, and favorable cost versus many lasers, have led to a proliferation of IPL devices. No longer a stepchild in the rejuvenation market, IPLs may overtake lasers as the devices of choice among most physicians. We review the pros and cons of lasers and IPLs within the context of design, cost, and other practical concerns for a typical office-based practice. *Lasers Surg. Med.* 38:261-272, 2006. © 2006 Wiley-Liss, Inc.

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