

# cover story

## LASER TECHNOLOGY CHANGING LIVES; COBLATION TREATMENT UNDER LOCAL REVIEW

Advances in laser technology continue to expand the menu of cosmetic services available to consumers nationwide. The latest of these advances, called Coblacion, is currently being evaluated by Vancouver Laser Skin Care Clinic, located in Fishers Landing.

This new skin care treatment procedure, approved by the FDA, resurfaces the face by precisely and almost painlessly removing skin layers one layer at a time. Treatment is on an outpatient basis. Wrinkles, crow's feet, thin lines across the forehead, furrows between the nose and corners of the mouth and weathered aging skin are all treatable using this new technology.

The addition of this new technology will allow laser clinics to offer patients a wider range of skin care services for those who do not wish to undergo cosmetic surgery and facelifts. Presently, Vancouver Laser Skin Care Clinic's diamond microdermabrasion unit uses a diamond tipped wand to quickly and painlessly remove the dead skin cells that accumulate on the face rather than the older technology crystal based systems that are subject to growing medical concern. The state-of-the art cosmetic laser the clinic uses treats rosacea, veins, sun/age spots, fine lines and tightens loose skin. The clinic also offers Botox and Restylane treatments (administered by a medical doctor), as well as several skin care product lines.

### What is Coblacion?

Coblacion is short for "Cool Ablation" and refers to a technology that can remove soft skin tissue a very thin layer at

a time without damaging the surrounding skin. This is done by the generation of a small plasma field at the tip of a wand, which is lightly passed over the skin. At each pass the plasma field breaks down the individual cellular bonds that hold that layer of skin together. The skin is not cut or burned; it simply dissolves and is wiped away prior to the next pass.

### Coblacion procedure

After a Coblacion treatment, the patient's skin has a softer, smoother more youthful appearance. Fine lines and wrinkles around the eyes and mouth are removed, while the deeper frown line grooves are softened. Many patients have said that they feel 10 years younger when they look in the mirror following a Coblacion treatment.

The coblacion procedure is available on an outpatient basis. A hand held device is used to deliver specialized bipolar radio frequency (RF) energy to the skin via saline dripped simultaneously onto the skin. An electrode in the handpiece interacts with the saline to create a plasma field at room temperature and pressure, which transfers energy, in the

form of heat, into the skin. As the plasma field touches the skin it painlessly dissolves the individual chemical cellular bonds that hold each individual layer of skin together. After a pass of the hand held device, sterile wipes are used to simply "wipe up" the dissolved layer of skin and then another pass with the hand held device is made.

Healing time after the Coblacion treatment is about seven to 10 days with most patients being able to wear makeup at that time. Often, patients are directed to use an ointment to keep



the treated areas moist, and in most cases bandages will be required during the first 48 hours. It will take approximately one week for the new skin to grow back. Most patients, according to a national study, do not experience any serious side effects. The most common side effects reported were redness of the skin (erythema), swelling (edema), crusting, pain and excess skin coloration (hyperpigmentation). These side effects tended to be mild and generally disappeared over time.

### Changing lives

Cosmetic laser treatments offered at Vancouver Laser have significantly changed the lives of many Clark County patients. As stated previously, the clinic treats rosacea, veins, sun/age spots, fine lines and tightens loose skin, among other services.

One patient, named Peggy, began her laser treatments a year ago to address acne scars. The scars created indentations in her skin – a condition that she wanted changed.

“I started with laser genesis with a session of the Titan treatment,” says Peggy. “And then I moved onto monthly microdermabrasion treatments. After three or four microdermabrasion sessions, I really noticed a major difference – my skin really started to smooth out. I’m very satisfied with the results.”

### Apprehension? Ask the patients

Many would-be cosmetic laser treatment patients have apprehension about the technology, since it is still relatively new.

“I would recommend the treatments to anyone,” says Peggy. “I was referred to Vancouver Laser by a plastic surgeon who thought I was better suited for cosmetic laser treatments. There was nothing to be scared of.”

Another patient, Susan said, “I was treated for facial scarring that was a result of acne. In conjunction with the laser treatment, I was really impressed with the microdermabrasion procedures. It made a huge difference with my skin’s smoothness, softness, and fine wrinkles.”

David had suffered from rosacea and came to Vancouver Laser when all else had failed with dermatologists. He said, “I had heard about this new laser treatment and discovered Lori (the clinic’s chief laser technician) in Beaverton. I was so impressed that I followed her to Vancouver for my treatment. I saw results after my first laser treatment and after four treatments, I couldn’t be happier with the results.”

Sue, a new patient, said that the “laser treatments for facial lines and the Titan facial tightening to remove jowle lines was

amazing! I saw dramatic results that were almost immediate. It was the best the I’ve ever done for my skin and myself.”

With the acquisition of Coblation technology, Vancouver Laser will be able to offer a range of skin treatment procedures covering almost all non-surgical conditions. The clinic offers a complimentary consultation to individuals concerned with a skin condition and who would like an informed evaluation and specific treatment programs outlined. In addition, Vancouver Laser has referral arrangements with local facial plastic surgeons and dermatologists and will provide a referral should it be in the patient’s best interest.

Vancouver Laser can be reached 9 am-5 pm Monday through Thursday at 360.823.0795. They are located in the Fisher’s Landing area just south of the Fred Meyer store..



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