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BBL™ Permanent Hair Reduction FAQ

What is BBL™?

BBL™ is an intense pulsed light system that can selectively target structures such as hair follicles. BBL™ permanent hair reduction is very effective for lighter skin types.

What treatments are available for hair removal?

Waxing, shaving, and the use of depilatory creams are well-established methods for hair removal, albeit temporary. Electrolysis is the traditional method for permanent hair reduction, but is often painful, time-consuming, and inefficient. These days, the most popular and most effective method for hair removal is the use of lasers and intense pulsed light systems which have been specifically designed to destroy many hair follicles in a short time, and with little chance of complications. People are interested in hair reduction because it involves new and efficient technology, and because the effects are permanent in over 80% of patients.

What is BBL™ hair reduction? How does it work?

BBL™ works by emitting light that is passed through the skin and preferentially absorbed by the hair follicle. The light used in hair reduction targets the pigment in the hair follicle, damaging the follicle and removing the hair. BBL™ hair removal is safe enough to be used on all body parts, including the face, back, underarms, bikini line, legs and arms.

Can all skin colors be treated?

BBL™ hair reduction works best on fair-skinned individuals with brown or black hairs. It is not effective for fine white or gray hairs. It cannot be used on darker skin types such as individuals of African American descent.

Can tanned skin be treated?

Patients cannot have a tan when being treated. Inform your physician if you have been tanning or exposed to the sun within the last four weeks. **You should not use self-tanning lotions or sprays for 1 month before your treatment.** Tanning increases the risk of complications such as blistering and discoloration.

What should I expect after treatment?

Some redness and slight swelling will be present in the area that has been treated; however, this should subside within 2-48 hours. Patients experience small red bumps around the hair follicles that can itch and last up to 2 weeks. In this instance, over-the-counter 1% hydrocortisone cream can be applied 3-4x daily.

Is there a risk of complications?

There is a low risk of skin darkening. Discuss your concerns with your physician prior to your treatment.

Is treatment permanent?

On average, each BBL™ treatment will be associated with some hair loss. So, in most cases permanent hair reduction can only be achieved after several treatments. The number of treatments will depend on each patient's individual response and the amount of hair to be removed. Remember that the goal may not be total hair removal but rather a 75-80% reduction.

Many patients are happy with a reasonable degree of hair reduction. Also remember that the hair that remains is often lighter in color and thinner than the original hair. As with other treatments for unwanted hair, there is no guarantee that hair reduction treatments will be permanent.

How many treatments will I need?

You will need 5 treatments approximately 4 to 8 week intervals.

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Does treatment hurt? What can I expect with the procedure?

Most patients describe BBL™ hair reduction as feeling “prickly,” or like the snap of a rubber band against the skin. Afterwards, it may feel like a bad sunburn. Different areas on the body are also more sensitive than others. On the day of your treatment, plan on wearing clothing that will allow easy access to the area being treated. BBL™ hair reduction works best when the hair is shaved on the day of the treatment. You should avoid plucking, waxing or using chemical depilatories one month prior to treatment. No specific care is needed after the treatment.

How long will it take my skin to heal?

Normally the skin just looks red and swollen for up to 48 hours. However, in some instances redness may persist for 5-7 days.

How much does treatment cost?

The cost of treatment depends on the location being treated and the estimated number of treatments necessary. Please refer to our Menu of Services brochure for specific pricing.

