Questions?
Your questions are important to us.
To schedule a consultation, call us at 206-598-6647.

For More Information
We can answer any of your questions in more detail at a consultation. Call 206-598-6647 for a cost estimate.

Pulsed Dye Laser Treatment
Patient information

What does the laser treat?
- Port-wine stains
- Hemangiomas
- Facial veins
- Angiomas
- Redness associated with rosacea
What does a pulsed dye laser do?
The pulsed dye laser was designed to improve a variety of benign vascular (red) lesions on the surface of skin.

How does a pulsed dye laser work?
The laser sends a pulse of yellow light to the skin. The light is absorbed by the blood vessels in the skin. The absorbed light causes specific destruction of the vessel.

What can a pulsed dye laser treat?
- Facial veins
- Port-wine stains
- Hemangiomas (raised red spots)
- Angiomas (red spots)
- Some redness associated with rosacea

What happens during treatment?
- A small handpiece will be held by the doctor and applied to the skin to deliver the laser pulse.
- A spray of cool air is felt followed by a pulse from the laser.
- The number of pulses needed depends on the size of the area to be treated.

Is pulsed dye laser treatment safe?
Pulsed dye laser treatment has an outstanding safety record. Modern lasers, such as the one at the Dermatologic Surgery Center, have extra safety features, including a cooling system to protect the surface of the skin.

Side effects may include redness, bruising, and swelling in the area of treatment. These are temporary, if they occur, and most times will disappear within a few days. Permanent side effects are rare. Your doctor will explain the risks and benefits of treatment at your first visit.

Is anesthetic needed?
Patients feel only a slight discomfort from the laser pulse. This feeling has been described as similar to snapping a rubber band on the skin. Most patients do not require any anesthetic. However, in some patients with large areas to treat, a topical anesthetic may be used before treatment. You can discuss this with your doctor.

What precautions should be taken before and after treatment?
Avoid sun exposure prior to and soon after treatment. Sunblock with an SPF of 30 or higher should be used.
Tanned skin may have a higher risk of reacting to laser. If you are tanned, we often recommend delaying treatment until the tan has faded.

Does insurance cover these procedures?
Most of the conditions treated by pulsed dye laser are considered cosmetic and not billable to insurance. Some conditions are covered by insurance due to the seriousness of the condition. Check with your health insurance company to find out what they cover.