

FRACTIONATED LASER RESURFACING

“WHAT IS IT?”

The days of having an oozing, sore, raw face for two weeks are passé. Now we use fractionated resurfacing to get rid of acne scars, lines, shallow wrinkles, sun and age spots, and to induce new collagen production which also creates skin tightening in the process. Traditional laser resurfacing will “grade” the skin like you’d clear a field for planting - whereas the fractionated process is more akin to “aerating” where scattered spots of skin are lazed, leaving areas of normal, untreated skin in-between, which allows the treated areas to heal very quickly. Post treatment recovery is much easier - a few days of swelling and redness, followed by some very fine peeling. Many people go to work afterwards, but you might want to have it done on a Friday and take the weekend to get back to normal. Different laser companies have slightly different techniques and therefore different names - like Fraxel® or Fractional®. Dr. Skellchock uses the 2940nm Erbium fractionated laser by Alma called the PIXEL™.

“HOW DO I PREPARE FOR IT?”

As with any procedure where we want the skin to be renewed, the use of a retinoid such as Retin-A®, Differin® or Tazorac® for two weeks beforehand will get the skin into a “regenerative” mode so that healing afterwards is quicker.

“WHAT’S THE AFTERCARE?”

Immediately after we will apply a calming cream. Some patients like to use cool soaks, but this is usually not necessary. Practice absolute sun avoidance, and keep the area moisturized. It’s OK to use make-up after the first 24 hours.

“WHERE ON MY BODY CAN IT BE DONE?”

Since this is a much gentler way to resurface the skin, essentially any area can be treated. Besides the face, the neck, chest, arms, back, legs, and hands are all possible treatment areas.

“HOW MANY TREATMENTS DOES IT TAKE?”

Because we are only treating 20-40% of the skin surface at any one treatment, 3-5 treatments are usually required to attain the desired results.

“HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?”

This depends on the area and how large it is. Since we know several treatments give optimal results, we offer packages which give a volume discount compared to single treatments.

“HOW DO I KNOW IF I’LL BENEFIT FROM THIS?”

Make an appointment for a consultation with Dr. Skellchock - she’ll be able to discuss this and all of your treatment options.