

## Recovering From Your CO2 Laser Surgery

**Anesthesia:** General or sedation (topical anesthesia may be used for some erbium procedures)

**Length of surgery:** 15-90 minutes.

**Length of stay:** Outpatient (home same day).

**Discomfort:** Anticipate 1-4 days of prescription pain medication.

**Swelling:** lasts 3 days to three weeks.

**Dressings:** Treated areas will appear as abrasions or deep burns. They will weep, ooze, and hurt when uncovered.

**Healing:** Your skin will heal in 4-6 days following erbium laser and 5-14 days following carbon dioxide laser. It will then appear sunburned. The only problem is that this "sunburn" takes awhile to fade. Once your skin heals you can wear camouflage make-up to conceal the redness. Interestingly, as much as everyone hates to be red, the longer you are red, the better your final result.

**Presentable in public:** You will be presentable with makeup in 7-14 days.

**Sun protection:** SPF 15 or higher for 3-6 months.

**Resume skin care:** You may resume skin care products after your skin has healed.