

# IPL Frequently Asked Questions

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## **What size of a treatment area is covered with the Groupon?**

The Groupon covers two treatments on a small area (10 cm<sup>2</sup>) equivalent to the back of a hand or cheeks and nose.

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## **What is the charge for additional treatments?**

Additional treatment charges are based on treatment time.

15 mins = \$200 each

30 mins = \$300 each

45 mins = \$500 each

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## **What is intense pulsed light (IPL™) therapy?**

Intense pulsed light therapy was invented by Dr. Patrick Bitters Jr. This procedure involves the use of an intense beam of broad-spectrum light (as opposed to lasers, which operate within a very specific wavelength) that targets the lower layer of the skin. The procedure simultaneously removes damaged and photoaged skin while stimulating collagen growth. IPL™ photorejuvenation therapy can improve the color, consistency, and texture of the skin all at once.

One of the reasons IPL™ photofacial procedures have become so popular is that their benefits heavily outweigh their risks. The potential side effects of photofacial (sometimes referred to as FotoFacial™) treatment, such as swelling, redness, and facial flushing, are minor and usually disappear within a few hours or days of the procedure

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## What skin types are best for IPL and how can I determine my skin type?

The Fitzpatrick Skin Type Scale is a numerical classification schema for the color of skin. It was developed in 1975 by T.B. Fitzpatrick, a Harvard dermatologist, as a way to classify the response of different types of skin to UV light. It remains a recognized tool for dermatologic research into the color of skin.

It measures several components: Genetic Disposition, Reaction to Sun Exposure and Tanning Habits. Please complete the form titled “Skin Typing” on the Forms and Financing page of our website ([www.therenewalcenter.com](http://www.therenewalcenter.com)) to determine your skin type according to the Fitzpatrick scale. If you score over 30 you are not a good candidate for our IPL device. If you score over 25 a test spot is required.

The Fitzpatrick Scale:

**Type I** (scores 0-7) White; very fair; freckles.

Always burns, never tans

**Type II** (scores 8-16) White; fair.

Usually burns, tans with difficulty

**Type III** (scores 17-25) Beige; very common.

Sometimes mild burn, gradually tans

**Type IV** (scores 25-30) Beige with a brown tint; typical Mediterranean Caucasian skin.

Rarely burns, tans with ease

**Type V** (scores over 30) Dark brown.

Very rarely burns, tans very easily

**Type VI** Black.

Never burns, tans very easily

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## What does IPL™ photorejuvenation treat?

IPL™ photorejuvenation can treat a wide variety of skin problems. It can be used to remove red spots or diffuse redness and can help with rosacea. IPL™ treatments can also help to smooth uneven skin texture, close large pores, and eliminate wrinkles by stimulating collagen growth. [Return to top](#)

## Are fotofacial, photofacial, and photorejuvenation the same thing?

Yes. These terms all refer to facial treatment based upon a common principle: heating and stimulating the inner layer of the skin while cooling and protecting the outer layer. There are a wide variety of technologies and procedures available for this type of treatment, however, and each works in a slightly different way. [Return to top](#)

## Is IPL™ photorejuvenation safe?

IPL™ photorejuvenation is one of the safest light-based facial treatments available. Most patients experience little or no pain during the procedure. Some patients have reported that the light pulses feel similar to a light “snap” from a rubber band. There have been few reported long-term side effects of IPL™, and the most common side effects — redness, minor swelling, and inflammation — usually go away within a few hours to a few days after treatment. [Return to top](#)

## What results can I expect after IPL™ treatment?

Immediately after your treatment, the treated area will appear slightly red or flushed, but this is completely normal. It will take several hours to a day or so for the treatment's results to become noticeable. The redness will fade, and you will see improvements more and more. Depending on the condition you are treating, your experience will differ.

Though recovery from IPL™ is rapid, it is important to keep in mind that sunscreen is vital to ensuring the results of the procedure last as long as possible. Be sure to protect the treated area from the sun for at least a couple of weeks, either by covering the area or wearing strong sunscreen. Speak to your physician about the best way to do this. If the proper steps are taken to maintain the improvements, the results of your treatment may last up to a year or longer.

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### **Are multiple treatment sessions recommended?**

Depending on the area being treated and the severity of the problem, multiple treatment sessions may be recommended. For many problems, physicians will recommend between three and five treatments. [Return to top](#)

### **Benefits of IPL™ Photofacial**

The benefits of intense pulsed light therapy cover almost the entire spectrum of cosmetic dermatology. When performed by a qualified skin care specialist, IPL™ photofacial treatment can help nearly all aspects of skin aesthetics and structure.

- The treatment can help repair small blood vessels that have become visible, or help eradicate sun spots or other pigmentation irregularities.
- IPL™ treatment can help combat acne problems and eliminate large pores.
- IPL™ photofacial therapy is also excellent at treating rosacea and other types of diffuse redness in the skin.
- By treating a slightly deeper layer of the skin, IPL™ photofacials stimulate collagen growth by simulating minor dermal injuries, thereby helping to improve skin texture.
- The cost of IPL™ photofacial treatments is often less than that of laser treatments as well.

Another benefit of IPL™ photorejuvenation procedures is that they allow for additional treatment with chemical peels, microdermabrasion, and other facial skin treatments that target the outermost layer of skin, the epidermis. Since IPL™ photofacials target deeper layers of the skin, they can be safely performed in conjunction with other, more superficial treatments. [Return to top](#)

### **IPL™ Photofacial Risks**

There are relatively few long-term risks associated with intense pulsed light treatment. Short-term potential side effects of IPL™ photofacial treatment include very minor swelling, redness, and increased visibility of small capillaries. These symptoms usually begin to disappear within a few hours of treatment.

Blistering and bleeding has been reported in very rare cases, and hyper- and hypo- pigmentation (darkening and lightening of the skin) have been reported as well. Scarring has been reported, but this too is very rare.

If you are honest and thorough with your physician about your medical history, you will most likely not encounter any severe complications from IPL™ photofacial treatment. Some factors that would prevent you from safely receiving treatment include pregnancy, open lesions, skin cancer, and keloid formation (excessive raised scarring). Be sure to discuss your medical history and any medications you are currently taking with your skin care specialist before undergoing treatment. [Return to top](#)