

IPL - A revolution in hair removal technology

We no longer have to rely on the painful and repetitive hair removal methods of the past. Shaving trims hair on the skin's surface but does not extract the root which causes rapid regrowth, ingrown hair and nicks, and cuts from the razor that you use.

Waxing tears out the hair and the follicle when you use strips and hot wax. The treatment can hurt quite a bit and lasts

about 2-6 weeks before it needs to be repeated once again.

The latest and most effective way to remove unwanted hair is conducted using light therapy. This technology called intense pulsed light (IPL) is used to perform various skin treatments, including hair removal. Like laser hair removal it offers a much more permanent solution.

How does intense pulsed light hair removal work?

Broad-spectrum light is applied to the surface of the skin, targeting melanin. This light travels through the skin until it strikes the hair root where the highest concentration of melanin resides. As the light is absorbed, the bulb and most of the hair shaft are heated, destroying the papilla which produces hair.

What is the difference between IPL and laser treatments?

Although lasers and IPL systems work on similar principles, there are some differences.

IPL is a technology used to perform various therapeutic procedures, including hair removal, treating hyperpigmentation, acne, sun damage, and thread veins. Ophthalmologists are increasingly using IPL

technology to treat dry eye conditions.

Intense pulsed light uses bursts of non-coherent light over a range of wavelengths. The device can produce high intensity, broad-spectrum light between 500 nm and 1200 nm. A cooling system is used to protect the skin from exposure to heat. The IPL hair removal system usually has a larger treatment head allowing for better coverage and a quicker process. In contrast, laser hair

removal uses coherent, monochromatic laser light. Lasers use one specific wavelength to target melanin. Laser hair removal can be more painful than IPL, as the smaller handpiece used for laser hair removal makes treating larger areas, like the legs, take longer.

Who is IPL hair removal suitable for?

IPL is a suitable solution for those with fair skin and dark hair. Blonde, red, white or grey hair cannot be treated

effectively with IPL or laser treatment.

How many treatments will I need?

Generally, an average of 8–10 treatments are required to remove most hair permanently. Depending on the area of skin being treated, the equipment used and patient skin type, results may vary.

How long do IPL treatments take?

IPL hair removal treatments are quick and virtually

painless. Smaller areas take under 30 minutes and larger areas can be completed in less than an hour.

Can I be treated with IPL if I have a suntan?

Because the IPL can target the melanin produced by a tan, if you have a recent sun tan you will need to wait at least 2 weeks before treatment to avoid unintended pigmentation changes.

What are the side effects of IPL hair removal treatments?

Immediately following IPL treatment, patients may experience redness in the treated area however this typically fades quickly.

Original article found at

<https://www.bareskin.co.za/blogs/news/ipl-a-revolution-in-hair-removal-technology>