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Nevi and lasers: Practical considerations.

Rogers T, Krakowski AC, Marino ML, Rossi A, Anderson RR, Marghoob AA. *Lasers Surg Med.* 2017 Nov 21. doi: 10.1002/lsm.22766.

ABSTRACT

Lasers are increasingly used for elective ablation of melanocytic nevi (MN). However, the associated risks of treating MN with lasers are debated and not well studied. Theoretical risks include inadvertently treating a melanoma mistaken for a nevus, the inability to remove all nevus cells and the possibility for residual cells to undergo malignant transformation, and the difficulty in clinically monitoring the remnant nevus for melanoma progression. Additional concerns include the morphological suitability of a lesion for laser removal and managing patients' expectations about the variable cosmetic outcomes. These potential issues have prompted us to outline some practical suggestions for clinicians and patients to consider when determining the suitability of a nevus for laser ablation. The choice to perform laser removal of a nevus is personal, both from the perspective of the treating physician and that of the person being treated. While acknowledging some uncertainty, we believe that these suggestions can help mitigate risk and improve patient outcomes. © 2017 Wiley Periodicals, Inc. **KEYWORDS:** Laser; complications; dermoscopy; lentigo; melanocytic nevus; melanoma; pigmented lesion; reflectance confocal microscopy PMID: 29159963 DOI: 10.1002/lsm.22766