

COMPLICATIONS FROM THE NON-PHYSICIAN PRACTICE OF MEDICINE



AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR DERMATOLOGIC SURGERY

ABOUT THE ASDS

The American Society for Dermatologic Surgery was founded in 1970 to promote excellence in the subspecialty of dermatologic surgery and foster the highest standards of patient care.

Dermatologic surgery is the discipline that deals with the diagnosis and surgical, reconstructive and cosmetic treatment of diseases of the skin, hair, nails and veins, including skin cancer and rejuvenation of aging and sun-damaged skin.

The Society is the largest specialty group in dermatology and represents the fastest-growing segment of dermatologic practice. Currently, approximately 2,500 members have joined the Society. ASDS is the nation's primary resource and advocate for education, research, and practice enhancement related to cosmetic and reconstructive dermatologic surgery.



The American Society for Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS) has become increasingly concerned about the proliferation of non-physicians practicing medicine and its impact on patient safety. Due to an alarming increase in the number of patient complications seen over the past year as a result of this trend, the ASDS is launching a patient safety and media information campaign.

In a recent survey of the Society's 2,400 members regarding the prevalence of non-physicians practicing medicine, approximately 45% of respondents indicated an increase in the number of patients requesting treatment for complications such as burns, blotching, irreversible pigmentation or scarring due to:

- Laser or light-based hair removal
- Chemical peeling
- Microdermabrasion
- Microdermabrasion and chemical peel combinations
- Non-ablative, sub-surface laser and light-based skin rejuvenation
- Misdiagnosis and delayed treatment of rosacea

These types of complications are represented in the following photographs.

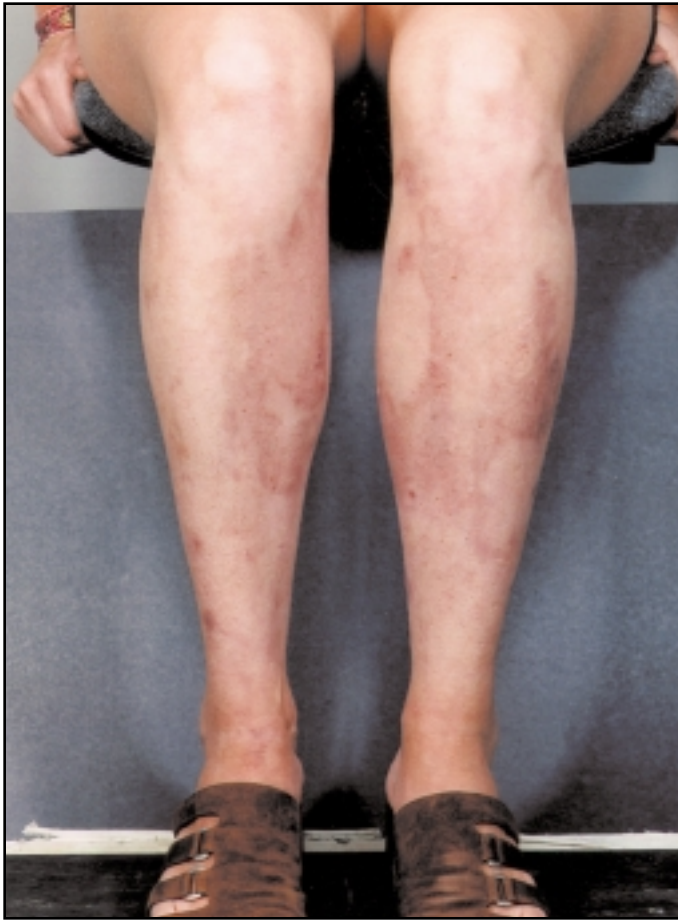
Complications may occur in the best of circumstances. However, they are happening in two primary arenas:

- 1) individuals, such as cosmetologists and estheticians, who perform increasingly aggressive, invasive procedures without direct physician supervision; and
- 2) employees of physicians, who perform procedures outside their scope of training (e.g. laser and light-based surgeries, combination peels, botulinum toxin, filler substances) with inadequate or no direct physician supervision.

These individuals are not qualified or trained to diagnose skin conditions, perform these procedures and manage these resulting complications. Moreover, patients who are treated by non-physician personnel for cosmetic dermatologic services are deprived of correct diagnosis and treatment of skin diseases, most notably skin cancers.

ASDS urges consumers to be aware that cosmetic procedures entailing conventional lasers, non-ablative or subsurface lasers and light sources, chemical peels, soft tissue fillers and microdermabrasion are surgical procedures that can be invasive, carry potential side effects and should be performed by a qualified physician.

For more information or to receive copies of the Society's position statements on this subject, please contact the ASDS Executive Director, Katherine J. Svedman at 847-330-9830 or visit the ASDS web site at www.aboutskinsurgery.com.



Hyperpigmentation and scarring resulting from a non-physician application of a Blue peel, allegedly a superficial trichloroacetic acid peel to the legs.

Chest scarring from inadvertent deep penetration of superficial peeling of the chest.





Hyperpigmentation and scarring from microdermabrasion and peeling performed by an unsupervised esthetician.

Contact allergy from Jessner's superficial peel applied to the face and chest resulting in hyperpigmentation and slow resolution.





Severe acne arising during healing from a superficial peel.

Chest scarring from over-applied Jessner's superficial peel used by non-physicians in some states.

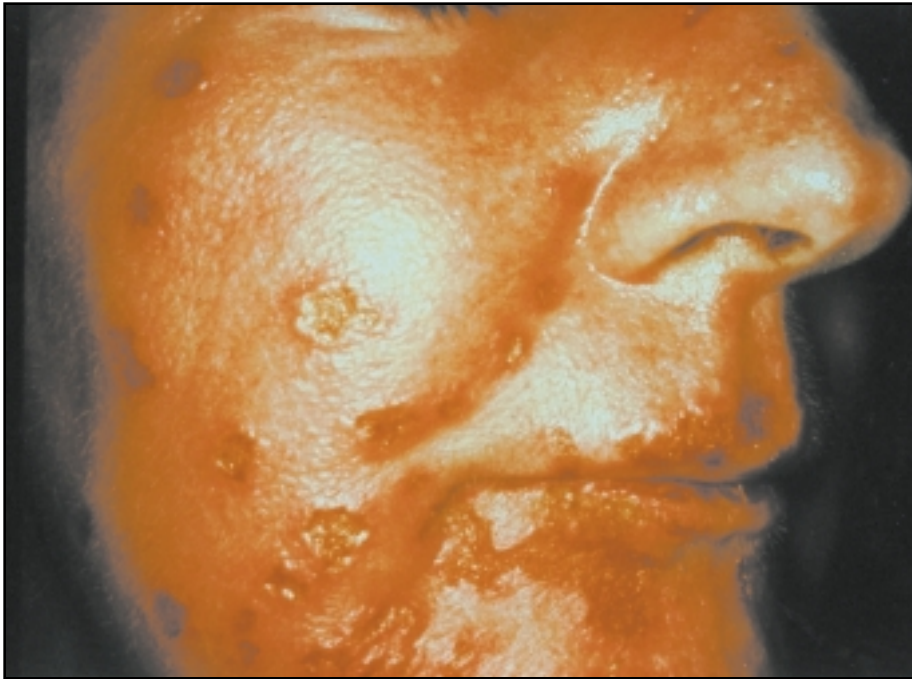




Severe chest scarring from a medium depth peel inappropriately applied to a chest. This complication can be easily produced. In this example, a physician performed the procedure.

Facial hyperpigmentation and streaking from microdermabrasion performed by a non-physician esthetician.





Herpes virus infection acquired during the healing phase of a chemical peel which produced scarring.

Burns resulting from laser use by a non-physician.





Hyperpigmentation and burns from the use of a laser for facial hair removal.





Hypopigmentation and scarring on a forearm resulting from the use of a laser, by a non-physician, for hair removal.





Ptosis (drooping) of the left eye following the injection of botulinum toxin causing prolonged patient dissatisfaction.

Irregular hypopigmentation resulting from the overaggressive use of an Intense Pulsed Light device, by a non-physician, in an attempt to rejuvenate a photoaged arm.





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