

### **FRAXEL® ReStore Laser Treatment Possible Complications**

**Explanation of Procedure** – The procedure requires multiple treatments over a period of one to six months, or longer if desired. Photographs will be taken periodically to assess progress. Prior to treatment, the area to be treated will be anesthetized with a topical numbing cream and/or local injection anesthesia. Following your treatment, you may experience swelling and redness, similar to mild sunburn, for several days. Light peeling or flaking of dry skin may also occur for the first week.

**Risk and Discomforts** – Risks and discomforts involved with this laser treatment include, but are not limited to:

**Pain** – There is some degree of discomfort and pain with this treatment, similar to snapping the skin with a rubber band.

**Reddening** – Laser treatment will cause a reddening of the area. The reddening will go away in one to two weeks.

**Swelling** – Laser treatment may cause swelling, which will usually go away in one week or less.

**Pigment Changes** – Although extremely rare, the treated area may heal with increased pigmentation (increased skin coloring). This occurs most often with darker colored skin and after exposure of the area to sun. You may have experienced this type of reaction before and noticed it with minor cuts or abrasions. The treated area must be protected from exposure to the sun (sunscreen for 4 weeks after treatment) to minimize the changes of too much pigmentation (increased skin coloring) however in some subjects, increased skin coloring may occur even if the area has been protected from the sun. These spots usually fade in three to six months. In some cases the pigment change is permanent. During pregnancy, areas of increased pigmentation frequently appear spontaneously. For this reason, laser therapy is not recommended during pregnancy. In some subjects who experience pigment alteration, the treated area loses pigmentation and becomes a lighter color than the surrounding skin. This type of reaction tends to gradually fade away and return to normal over a period of two to four months.

**Scarring** – There is a “very” small chance of skin scarring, including abnormal raised scars (hypertrophic or keloid scars).

**Bleeding** – The laser treatment may cause some pinpoint bleeding which should stop within a few minutes without any lasting effect. If any pinpoint bleeding occurs and does not reach the skin surface, bruising will result, disappearing in one to two weeks.

**Blistering** – The laser procedure may produce heating in the upper layers of the skin resulting in steam formation. The steam may produce a separation between upper and middle layers of the skin resulting in blister formation. The blisters will go away with in two to four days.

**Scabbing** – A scab may be present after a blister forms. The scabbing will disappear during the natural wound healing process of the skin.

**Infection** – If a blister or bleeding is present, an infection of the wound is possible, but very unlikely. If blistering occurs, keep a thin layer of an over the counter antibiotic ointment (Bacitracin, Polysporin, Neosporin) over the blistering area, until resolved. In addition, if an infection occurs, the need for an oral antibiotic is rare and will be determined by Dr. Nishioka.