

ADVERSE EVENT RATE IN A HIGH VOLUME LASER HAIR REMOVAL CENTER

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Background: The rapid growth in availability of non-invasive photo-epilation treatments in spas and laser hair removal centers has been met with considerable controversy. It is agreed upon that appropriate training and physician access for non-physician laser operators lessens the incidence of adverse events associated with these procedures.

Study Design: This paper reviews 90 days of photo-epilation treatments in a center which is part of a chain of laser hair removal centers. This center was chosen out of the 80 in the chain because it utilizes an electronic charting system, and thus has the most accessible data. Data base extractions were done for number of treatments, body part treated, skin type, machine utilized, and adverse events.

Result: Hair removal treatments during this 90 day period totaled 1637. This group included individuals of skin types I-VI. Diode hair removal with the Lumenis manufactured LightSheer totaled 1092. Intense Pulsed Light and Radiofrequency hair removal treatments with the Syneron manufactured Aurora totaled 545. Two adverse events were reported in the LightSheer group, and none in the Aurora group.

Conclusion: This review finds a less than 0.2% incidence of adverse events. This some would find surprising considering the high volume of treatments performed, however this attributes to the safety of the procedure when the persons performing the procedure are appropriately trained, and a safe protocol is utilized.