



Find Out Who is Holding the Laser, Before Going Under It

The popularity of cosmetic lasers has seen an unprecedented rise since the creation of the first medical spa in the late nineties. Spurred on by widespread celebrity interest and an increasingly open-minded social view of cosmetic procedures, men and women looking to ditch the razor or lose their wrinkles now purchase over 30 million cosmetic laser treatments each year.

The current demand, which is a far cry from the 110,000 procedures performed each year only a decade earlier, has industry experts worried that the desire for these procedures is outpacing the number people trained to perform them. The American Society of Dermatological Surgery reports that in 2007 alone the number of laser procedures botched by untrained doctors, nurses, aestheticians and cosmetic laser technicians has increased 41%, raising serious concerns about consumer safety.

Arizona medical spa owner Louis Silberman was one of the first to notice the issue affecting the industry. Finding a lack of schools capable of providing the cosmetic laser education that people needed to work in the medical aesthetics field, Silberman took action by opening National Laser Institute (NLI).

The school initially taught courses in laser hair removal, but as new technology became available, the curriculum came to include classes for treatments such as photofacials and laser tattoo removal. NLI has since become the top cosmetic laser aesthetics college in the U.S., training doctors, nurses, aestheticians and laser technicians to perform the latest cosmetic treatments with the utmost care and safety.

“It is extremely important for consumers who want to receive laser treatments to research the person and facility providing the services. Inquire about the level of training they have received and where. If in doubt, move on. Receiving a treatment from an improperly trained or negligent laser technician can result in irreversible pigment change, scarring or burns,” said Silberman.

With no national legislation in place to govern the use of cosmetic lasers, states must individually set their own safety requirements. The level of training required in each state varies greatly and has caused quite a stir in the medical aesthetics industry. Seeking to prevent accidents and injuries, many medical spa owners are now requiring new and continuing employees to receive comprehensive training at medical aesthetics schools like NLI.