

# Safer and More Effective WRINKLE REMOVAL

## Major Advances at Gateway Laser Center in Laser Resurfacing

by Dr. Mark B. Taylor, M.D.

In the early 90s, with the advancement of modern medical lasers, skin resurfacing became a craze. And while the lasers used at the time were effective in removing wrinkles, they also resulted in prolonged healing and redness. Hypopigmentation (whitening of the skin) was also a common adverse affect from these early procedures.

In the years that followed, steps were taken to reduce the risk of hypopigmentation. But with said improvements, the lasers were not as effective at removing wrinkles.

Then, approximately two years ago, a company called Solta developed a fractional CO<sub>2</sub> laser called the Fraxel Repair. The term *fractional* means the laser beam is separated into small spots that treat just a portion of the skin's surface as the laser passes over. It's a process that some have compared to aeration, and it has offered a huge step forward in laser skin resurfacing treatment.

In addition to advancements in the lasers themselves, we at the Gateway Aesthetic Institute have also studied the use of low-intensity diode light to promote the healing of the skin afterwards. We have performed several IRB controlled studies using Omnilux red light treatment after laser resurfacing and found that people indeed heal faster.

We have also focused on making laser resurfacing more comfortable through the use of newer anesthetic techniques, including tumescent anesthesia. In years past, it was often necessary to have an anesthesiologist on hand for the procedure. Today, most procedures are instead performed with a simple oral anesthesia and sedation.

Lastly, we've made advancements through the use of better healing ointments. With the assistance of our chemist, we have developed two healing ointments specifically for skin resurfacing—a thicker, more protective ointment for the first week after laser resurfacing, and a thinner, less greasy ointment for the second week.

The result from these several advancements is that we now perform laser resurfacing with little or no risk of hypopigmentation or other permanent adverse effects. Today our procedures are much quicker, often less than one hour. Healing time has also improved by as many as three days over former techniques, and the need for a healing mask immediately after surgery is often no longer necessary (and when it is necessary, it is usually only worn for a single day).

All of these steps forward in laser resurfacing translate into improved results, greater comfort and convenience, and a safer treatment for you as the patient. At the Gateway Aesthetic Institute and Laser Center, we provide a world-class team of specialists to not only perform your procedure, but to care for you afterwards, making certain you are healing properly.

We are committed to attend to every detail to help you look your best at any age. Call for a free consultation to find out what we can do today to remove your wrinkles and scars.

