

LEVULAN PHOTODYNAMIC TREATMENT

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What are Levulan and Blue Light PDT?

- Levulan (Aminolevulinic Acid 20%) is a naturally occurring photosensitizing agent, which has been designed to treat pre-cancerous lesions called actinic keratosis on the face and scalp. If untreated AK's may develop into skin cancer. Levulan is applied to the skin and then "activated" by the blue light. This process is known as Photodynamic Therapy.

Who can use Levulan?

- Levulan has been tested on adults only, but there is not indication that prohibits use by any age. Levulan has not been tested on pregnant women, therefore it is not recommended for women who are pregnant or nursing.

Is Levulan covered by insurance?

- Levulan is covered by most insurance for the treatment of actinic keratosis only.

What are the benefits of Levulan?

- Levulan has been approved by the FDA to treat pre-cancerous lesions called Actinic Keratosis.
- Levulan has also been shown to improve the quality of the skin by causing collagen production to which improves the texture of the skin by decreasing pore size and softening fine lines and wrinkles.
- Levulan has been show to treat Acne Vulgaris, Sebaceous Hyperplasia, Acne, Rosacea and other skin conditions. (These treatment are NOT covered by insurance because it is considered to be cosmetic).

Are there any pre-treatment instructions?

- The day of the treatment, arrive with clean skin (females no make-up)
- Bring a wide-brimmed hat to wear after treatment
- Try to avoid direct sunlight exposure 24 hours prior to treatment

What can I expect during the day of my Levulan treatment?

- Your skin will be prepared with an acetone wash to remove any oil and debris from the skin, then Levulan will be applied to your skin, you will then wait at least one hour for the Levulan to penetrate into your skin. Before the BLU-U treatment, goggles will be placed on to protect your eyes. Treatment will follow with the BLU-U light for 16 minutes 40 seconds.
- Once finished you will apply sunscreen and remain out of the sun or bright light for at least 48 hours. It is advised that you continue the use of sunscreen to prevent further sun damage.

What are possible side effects of the Levulan and BLU-U treatment?

- During the treatment, you may experience tingling, stinging or burning of the treated areas. These sensations should improve at the end of the BLU-U treatment and should resolve within 24 hours. Most patients tolerate the treatment well. Most patients have temporary redness and swelling, peeling may occur.

How many treatments will I need?

- Most patients require 1-3 treatments 3-4 weeks apart.