

| fact sheet |

SCAR TREATMENT

What causes scarring?

A scar forms when the epidermis and dermis layers of the skin receive a severe injury or are disrupted by illness. As the skin heals, it may form lumps (hypertrophic or keloid scars), abnormal pigmentation (hypopigmented or hyperpigmented scars), red scars (vascular scars with too many blood vessels), or painful growing scars (keloid).

Some scarring is caused by abnormal healing unique to an individual patient (keloid scars are of this type). Pitted scars are often associated with acne. Indented or ice-pick scars are typical of chicken pox, and darkly pigmented scars and white scars are caused when the skin's pigment cells are damaged.

What treatment options are available for scars?

At the Gateway Aesthetic Institute & Laser Center, several options are available to treat any type of scar.

Laser or Intense Pulsed Light (IPL) treatments are used to soften lumpy scars, remove abnormal brown pigment, and reduce or remove redness.

Medications (such as Aldara, Kenalog 40, 5FU and others) are used to impede the growth of abnormal scar tissue.



Pressure and silicone patches are used, in combination with other treatments, to impede the growth of keloid and hypertrophic scars.

Soft tissue fillers, including permanent fillers, work well for depressed acne scars and areas where injury has caused tissue loss and dimpled or indented the skin.

Laser resurfacing may be used to vaporize or fractionally treat abnormal pitted or contoured acne scars.

Decades of experience allow us to recommend the best treatment method for you.

Will my scar be removed?

Scars are not “removed”. Instead, their appearance is softened and lightened to make them less noticeable. The effectiveness of treatment will vary depending on the individual nature of each scar.

How long does treatment take?

Laser scar treatment is performed in our office as an outpatient procedure under lo-

cal anesthesia. Depending on the treatment area and the type of scar, treatment time may range from a few minutes to two hours.

Are there any side effects of laser scar treatment?

In rare instances, changes in skin pigmentation may occur, though this side effect can generally be avoided by protecting the treated area from sun exposure directly following treatment. Infection is also rare, but can be treated with medicated ointments or antibiotics.

How do I know if my scar can be successfully treated?

Call Gateway Aesthetic Institute & Laser Center at (801) 595-1600 to schedule a consultation.

We are located at the south end of the Gateway Mall in Salt Lake City at 440 West 200 South, Suite 250, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101.



Hoping for healing?

With the many scar treatment options available at Gateway Aesthetic, you can say goodbye to unwanted scars.