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LASER PHOTOCOAGULATION

Small vascular lesions of the skin, such as flat birthmarks (capillary haemangiomas), can be treated by a laser beam of about 0.6 to 1 watt.

Usually, patients accept the slight burning sensation well, but if they are very sensitive they may be prescribed a mild sedative an hour before the operation, which will relax them almost immediately. An anaesthetic cream under a water-tight dressing can also be applied an hour, or better two hours, before treatment begins. If absolutely necessary a local anaesthetic can be injected, but this tends to discolour the lesion and may interfere with the laser.

The treatment lasts 15 to 30 minutes. If there is a burning sensation afterwards, it can be controlled by cold water compresses. After two days, an antiseptic or anti-inflammatory cream can be applied.

In general it is not advisable to drive a vehicle just after laser therapy. It is better to return home by taxi or with another driver, and rest quietly the first evening.

It is important to protect the region treated by laser with a high factor (at least 15) sun screen for at least 3 months, and better for 6 to 12 months, in order to avoid the risk of the skin darkening due to sunlight.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G.F. Maillard', written in a cursive style.

Dr G.-F. Maillard, Privat-Docent