# CADOGAN CLINIC

# ICON by CYNOSURE – Patient Guide

# **OVER VIEW**

The ICON Cynosure laser system is considered the next generation of light based treatments. It uses advanced technology to deliver the safest, most effective and bespoke non surgical treatments and is fully equipped to offer a full portfolio of solutions as it is essentially a multi device unit.

The ICON laser system combines a fractional laser (similar in intensity to the Fraxel) and intense pulsed light (IPL) technology.

Uniquely, the ICON laser's technology means that the machine has such a wide range of capabilities that it can provide different levels of treatments and meet various comfort and downtime requirements according to a patient's individual needs. For instance, its state of the art Skintel™ Melanin Reader detects a patients' melanin density to accurately diagnose skin tone, ensuring the appropriate level of laser is applied. The machine also has built-in advanced features such as a cooling system for added skin protection and comfort.

This technology is FDA approved and one of the safest lasers available for aesthetic non surgical treatments.

There are a variety of handheld attachments to perform treatments to help a wide range of aesthetic concerns including some of the following:

- Laser skin resurfacing
- Removing varicose veins
- Wrinkle treatment
- Pore reduction
- Acne treatment
- Scar reduction
- Improving stretch marks
- Pigment removal



# **CONCERNS – HOW IT TREATS THEM**

#### WRINKLE REDUCTION

The ICON can reduce the appearance of lines and wrinkles in just one treatment. **Ablative fractional laser technology** delivers energy deep into the skin, which stimulates the regeneration of new skin cells. This treatment method boasts recovery times of as little as four days, without the side effects associated with invasive surgery.

### STRETCH MARKS

Stretch marks are a common problem for many women. When areas of skin stretch considerably over a short period of time, such as during pregnancy, noticeable lines appear on the skin surface. Fractional laser technology is delivered and pulsed into the skin. This targets stretch mark discolouration and stimulates the production of new collagen to improve the smoothness of these troublesome areas. Typically, patients require three and five treatments to restore skin texture – there is no downtime at all.

#### **SCARRING**

The ICON fractional laser system is a fast, simple and effective treatment option for scar removal. Developed. The fractional laser technology boasts minimal downtime and can be used on any skin type. The procedure involves fractional laser light being used to break down scar tissue and trigger the production of new cells. It is an effective treatment for all severities of acne scarring.

#### SKIN RESURFACING

The fractional laser system achieves excellent skin resurfacing results by using laser energy micro-beams to create areas of affected tissue that extend through the epidermis deeper down into the dermis. The body's natural healing process creates new, healthy cells to replace the areas of affected tissue, resulting in healthier, younger-looking skin. This treatment is suitable for all skin types and some of the concerns that it commonly treats are listed below:

- Age spots
- Skin tone and texture
- Sun damage
- Wrinkles
- Stretch marks
- Acne scars
- Surgical scars



The ICON laser system uses Optimised Light™ photo-rejuvenation technology, which delivers gentle pulses of intense, optimised light to regions of unwanted pigmentation and facial vessels. The appearance of sun spots, age spots, spider veins, rosacea and capillaries can all be reduced significantly. Treatment time can be as short as 30 minutes, depending on the size of the area to be treated. Three to five treatments should deliver optimal results but some patient may get the improvement they are hoping for after just one or two sessions

#### **VASCULAR - LEG VEINS**

The ICON laser emits light which is targeted and constricts the blood vessels which cause spider and reticular veins without damaging the surrounding skin. Veins are made less visible on the skins surface and the treatment takes less than 30 minutes for each session.

# **GENERAL FAQ's**

## Who can have this treatment?

The ICON system may not be appropriate for:

- Pregnant women
- Patients who have taken Roaccutane for the past 6 months.
- Patients with a history of cold sores or herpes simplex virus shouldn't have this procedure until they are pre-treated for these conditions.
- Certain medications, particularly blood thinners, may increase the risk of side effects

## What does it feel like?

As well as the patient's own pain threshold, the discomfort level of an ICON session depends on the level of treatment being administered. Topical anaesthetic can be applied 10-30 minutes prior to the treatment taking place but during treatment the built in cooling system is highly effective at providing additional comfort. Both practitioner and patient must wear protective eyewear.

Your practitioner will place handheld device with a smooth glass surface that pulses laser or light energy onto your skin. Each pulse causes a snapping or burning sensation that can be compared to the snapping of a rubber band or quick match burn. After each snap, the doctor will pick the laser up to place onto the area of skin adjacent to was just zapped, being careful to not overlap zapped sections. When your treatment is finished a cold compress can be applied to ease any discomfort followed by an application of moisturiser and sunscreen.

## What is the Downtime?

Immediately after your ICON laser treatment your skin will feel warm, red, and may be slightly swollen similar to that of bad sunburn, these effects usually resolve on their own within 1 to 3 days at most. Some mild bruising may also occur over particularly delicate areas, crusting, scabbing, darkened patches, and, in quite rare cases, mild blistering can also be experienced. These reactions gradually subside within 1 to 2 weeks after treatment.

# When will I see results?

Results of course, do depend on the type of treatment being carried out but generally after 2 to 3 weeks of your first treatment you will notice an improvement in both texture and tone of the skin. After 3 or more consecutive treatments, there will be further improvement as well as a visible decrease of redness, dark spots and fine lines. Freckles and age spots may appear darker for up to a week before they fade gradually.

For optimal results, a series of 3 to 5 sessions spaced 3 to 4 weeks apart is recommended; patients may also wish to incorporate a treatment touch-up treatment every 6 months to maintain results.

