

GREENVILLE DERMATOLOGY OMNILUX ACNE TREATMENT INFORMATION SHEET

Greenville Dermatology now has the ability to treat all forms of acne with the latest light based technology, called Omnilux Blue and Omnilux Red.

How does the treatment work? The light emitted from the machines is visible light in a very narrow spectrum and therefore appears blue or red. It has been shown in studies that these narrow bands of light selectively target a substance formed by acne bacteria called “porphyrins”. When targeted, the porphyrins heat up and destroy the bacteria.

Is the treatment safe? The treatment is no more risky or dangerous than sitting in front of a reading light. There are no ultraviolet rays that cause skin cancer, and no ionizing radiation that comes from the lights.

Will it cure my acne? Since acne is influenced by hormones, there is never going to be a cure for acne. However, this treatment is another option in the treatment of acne that can be used alone or along with your treatments.

How many treatments will I need? We recommend an initial series of 8 treatments which are administered twice each week for one to three months. Each treatment takes 20 minutes. After that, you will require a maintenance treatment the frequency of which will depend on the severity of your acne. The more severe your acne is, the more maintenance treatments you will need. We would recommend an initial frequency of once a month.

What is the advantage of this treatment over pills and creams? The advantage is that you do not have to take a pill, or use creams, which can cause dryness or irritation. It is also safe for pregnant women.

What is the disadvantage of this treatment? The disadvantage is that you will have to come to the clinic for your treatments, which may not be feasible for everyone. Also, your insurance company at this time will likely not pay for the treatments.

How much will it cost? We are charging \$25 per treatment. However, you will be periodically evaluated by a doctor, usually once a month. During those evaluations, your insurance will be billed for an office visit, for which you will have to pay your co-pay. We will bill your insurance for the treatments, but ask you to sign a waiver stating that you understand that your insurance may not pay, and ask you to pay for the treatments when you get them. We will refund your money should your insurance company pay. We expect that eventually insurance companies will pay for this procedure, but because it is new, this may take a few years. Therefore, you will initially pay your copay (\$10-\$20), then \$25 a treatment for the remaining 7 treatments (\$175). Compare this to paying your copay for an office visit, and then your copays for prescriptions (usually 3 which may cost from \$15 to over \$100) each month, plus the added risks of taking and using prescription medication.

What if I do not respond? Like many acne treatments, some people will not respond as they would like to this treatment. We still have the other options for treating acne available to us.

How do I make an appointment for this treatment? Simply call the clinic at 864-242-5872 and ask for an appointment for acne. Some insurances will require that you get a referral from your primary care physician first.