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[Laser therapy for vascular lesions].

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Abstract

The use of lasers to treat vascular lesions began in the late 1960s with the introduction of argon laser. More recently **pulsed** laser and **intense pulsed light** techniques have further improved results and reduced side effects. Their function is based on the principle of selective photothermolysis. Simultaneous application of cooling methods (contact cooling, cold air, cryogen spray) has become standard procedure for these types of **therapy**, whose most important indications are **port-wine stain**, hemangioma, and telangiectasia. A persistent difficulty is their limited penetration, resulting in limited or no effect on deeper dermal layers. New approaches therefore include combinations with bipolar radio frequency or the use of two different laser systems, e.g., dye and Nd:YAG lasers. The different lasers are described along with their effectivity, limitations and indications.

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