

PDL Safely Treats Superficial Infantile Hemangiomas

The 595-nm pulsed dye laser (PDL) can be used to treat superficial infantile hemangiomas of the eyelid safely, researchers concluded.

The finding is based on a retrospective study of 23 patients treated for this condition by Christopher Hunzeker, M.D., and Roy Geronemus, M.D., of the Laser & Skin Surgery Center of New York. The 595-nm PDL was used with energy fluences of 11-11.5 J/cm², a 7 mm spot size, and a pulse width of 0.45-1.5 ms. Three non-treating physician reviewers compared pretreatment photographs of the lesions with photographs taken after the final laser treatment. The reviewer rated improvement of the hemangiomas as excellent (76-100% improvement), good (51-75%), moderate (26-50%), or poor (0-25%).

Eight patients (34.8%) had complete clearance of their hemangioma and 18 (78.3 percent) had excellent improvement, according to the investigators. The remaining five subjects (21.7%) had an improvement rating of good. The investigators observed no scarring, atrophy, ulcerations, or infections.

"Early treatment may slow or halt the proliferative growth phase and hasten regression of the hemangioma, thereby providing both cosmetic benefit and potential avoidance of visual field complications," the authors observed.