



Limited Laser and Superficial Skin Procedures

The College is requesting authorization for appropriately certified and registered Doctors of Optometry to perform limited laser and superficial skin procedures on and near the eye.

Minor surgical procedures would be performed with scissors, blade or radio frequency (in-office) under local anesthesia (topical and injectable) for the removal of benign minor skin lesions such as: skin tags, papilloma, verrucae, seborrheic keratosis, cyst of moll, cyst of Zeiss, sebaceous cyst, epidermal inclusion cyst and incision/curettage of chalazion.

The preferred surgical technique is left to the professional judgment of the practitioner based on the patient's condition and potential for a positive health outcome. All suspicious lesions must be biopsied and sent to a lab for analysis. All malignant lesions must be referred to a physician.

Doctors of Optometry practicing in the United States have been performing the same laser and superficial skin procedures requested by the College in a safe and skilled manner for many decades now:

- Currently 17 States and veteran hospitals in all States authorize Doctors of Optometry to perform minor lid surgeries.
- Currently, 10 States and veteran hospitals in all States authorize Doctors of Optometry to perform laser procedures.
- The first State that authorized Doctors of Optometry to perform these procedures did so almost 50 years ago.

Approval of this authorization in Alberta would prevent patients from potentially harming themselves with over-the-counter products that contain flammable and combustible dimethyl ether and propane (e.g. Dr. Scholl's Skin Tag and Wart Removal). Applied incorrectly, these products can damage healthy peri-ocular and ocular tissue.

All proposed minor superficial skin surgical procedures are for superficial, non- intraocular conditions that would be performed under local anesthesia (topical and injectable). None of these procedures require general anesthesia.

SCOPE EXPANSION Limited Laser and Superficial Skin Procedures

Verrucae



Before

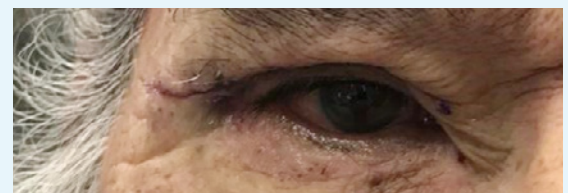


After

Epidermal Inclusion Cyst



Before



After

Images courtesy of NSU College of Optometry