

## Burn scar

# Laser treatment

### Why is a laser used to treat scars?

If you have a scar that is lumpy, red, tight or sore, laser treatment may be able to help. It can be used to make your scar softer, less red and feel more normal.

### What happens when I have laser treatment?

You will be asleep (under anaesthetic) and will not feel anything. When you wake up, you will have a dressing on your scar. You will go home the same day that you have your treatment, as soon as you and the nurses feel you are ready.

### What will my scar be like after laser treatment?

Your scar may be (or may appear) slightly redder than usual for a couple of days, but this will settle down.

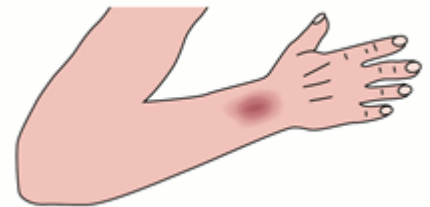
After a few weeks, we hope your scar will start to feel smoother and softer and look less red. However, this may not be the case for everybody. More than one treatment may be needed depending on how your scar changes.

### What else do I need to know?

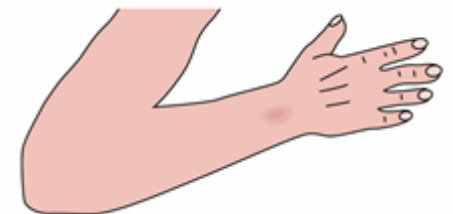
After your treatment, you will have a light comfortable dressing on your scar. You or your parent/carer can remove this dressing at home after one or two days, as directed by your nurse or doctor.

You will also be given some cream to apply to your scar once the dressing has been removed. You should apply the cream twice a day for two weeks after receiving your laser treatment. Do not use silicone or go swimming during this time, however continue with your normal burn care routine as usual (e.g. wearing garment, splints, exercises, etc).

Please tell your parent/carer if you have any worries about your scar. If your scar is painful or if you feel unwell after the laser treatment, contact Ward 1B as soon as possible on 6456 3630.



Before laser



After laser



## What do I need to look for?

Infections in burn patients can be very serious and must be treated urgently. Observe your child and the wound/dressing site frequently. Phone PCH Ward 1B on 6456 3630 immediately if any of the following occur:

- a temperature below 35.5°C or above 38°C
- a rash, increased pain, redness or swelling at the wound site
- changes in behaviour such as poor appetite, sleep disturbances, lethargy (quiet or lack of energy) or flat mood
- excessive ooze/wound fluid (though a small amount is expected)
- offensive odour.

## Further information

If you or your parent/carer has any questions about the laser, please talk to member of the PCH Burns Service team.



Government of **Western Australia**  
Child and Adolescent Health Service

**This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.**

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