

## **Wrinkles**

### **What causes a wrinkle to form?**

You don't get wrinkles – you lose collagen. Making up three-fourths of your skin, collagen is the framework for your body's tissues. As people grow older you lose collagen by the natural aging process, genetic influences, exposure to the sun, and smoking cause the skin to wrinkle and sag. In the younger individual, the face is firm and smooth due to fatty tissue directly beneath the skin. The tissue that fills out the contours of the face gives it an even, rounded appearance. As an individual ages the skin begins to sag and to fit more prominently, particularly around the chin, on the jaw line and on the neck.

### **How does Laser technology treat wrinkles?**

The FDA-approved Er-YAG lasers target wrinkles and stimulate collagen production through a slight increase in skin temperature. This causes blood vessels to release repair proteins that produce new collagen and help smooth out wrinkles.

### **Does the treatment hurt?**

The sensation is often described as “hot pinch”, or “snapping” feeling. The sensation only lasts for a fraction of a second, and you may feel warmth or a tingling sensation for a short time afterward. Most people tolerate treatment without topical anaesthetic, but individuals who are more sensitive may prefer to have the skin numbed before treatment.

### **How many treatments are needed?**

It is hard to say until a consultation has been completed. 3-6 treatments are generally required.

### **What is the downtime from Laser treatment?**

There is relatively no down time. Redness may occur for a few hours to a few days and flaking for one or two days with full recovery in five days.