

# CO<sub>2</sub> Laser Resurfacing Immediate Postoperative Care Prior to Complete Epithelialization

# 167

Jemshed A. Khan

Wound care is designed to hasten the resolution of erythema and minimize postinflammatory hyperpigmentation subsequent to reepithelialization (Table 167.1). Topical application of hydrocortisone cream 1 % at bedtime for up to 6 weeks after surgery will minimize both

conditions. Postinflammatory hyperpigmentation is also reduced by the prophylactic use of sunscreen SPF 30 or greater for 12 weeks after surgery. Topical hydroquinone cream 4 % may be applied at bedtime to speed the resolution of hyperpigmentation.

**Table 167.1** Resurfacing postoperative care prior to epithelialization

Indication/class	Generic name	Brand name	Recommended
Antibiotic	Ciprofloxacin	Cipro	Most cases
Antiviral	Acyclovir	Zovirax	Most cases
Antifungal	Fluconazole	Diflucan	As needed
Occlusive dressing	Various	Various	Not recommended
Occlusive topical	Petroleum jelly	Vaseline	Recommended
Occlusive topical	Various	Aquaphor	Recommended
Steroid cream	2.5 % Hydrocortisone	Various	Recommended
Wound care	Acetic acid	NA	Recommended

Reprinted from Chen WPD, Khan JA, McCord, Jr, CD. *Color Atlas of Cosmetic Oculofacial Surgery*. Philadelphia, PA: Butterworth Heinemann/Elsevier; 2004. With permission from Elsevier.

J.A. Khan, MD  
Department of Ophthalmology, Kansas University  
School of Medicine, Kansas University Medical  
Center, Kansas City, MO, USA