

THE CARBON DIOXIDE LASER IN THE TREATMENT OF SUPERFICIAL TELANGIECTASES

By ISAAC KAPLAN, M.D. and ISAAC PELED, M.D.

Laser Surgical Unit, Department of Plastic Surgery, Beilinson Hospital and Tel Aviv University Medical School, Tel Aviv, Israel

ONE of the most important attributes of the carbon dioxide laser in surgery is its ability to seal off small blood vessels before cutting them (Kaplan *et al.*, 1973). It seemed logical to try the effect of the laser through intact skin on the small dilated dermal blood vessels which can present otherwise untreatable problems on the face and limbs. It works like a charm and several satisfied patients have already been treated (Figs. 1 and 2).

METHOD

The procedure is performed ambulatorily, without previous preparation. No anaesthesia is required and there is no need to prepare the skin because of the antiseptic properties of the laser. The blood vessels and their ramifications are lased in single



FIG. 1. Sixty-year-old man who complained of the prominent blood vessels on his nose.

FIG. 2. Three days after laser treatment.

shots, with a very fine ray timed at $1/20$ of a second and 20 watts output; the speed of the pulses makes the procedure painless. The pulses are continued until the telangiectases disappear. The whole procedure usually takes a few seconds, depending on the extent of the condition. The result is seen immediately. There is no need for a dressing.

At follow-up, small dilated vessels which may have been missed or recurred are retreated.

REFERENCES

- KAPLAN, I., GER, R. and SHARON, U. (1973). The carbon dioxide laser in plastic surgery. *British Journal of Plastic Surgery*, **26**, 359.