

## **Ask Dr. Mikell**

By Dr. Oswald Mikell

### **Laser Hair Removal**

#### **Dr. Oswald Mikell, MD • Dermatology Associates of the Lowcountry**

American Board of Dermatology | American Board of Cosmetic Surgery | Physician of the Year 2008

Spring is in the air, and it's time to think about getting ready to bare more skin. Laser hair removal is a simple and relatively painless process - and just what you need to get ready for the season!

#### **Q. I've heard about laser hair removal, but exactly what is it?**

**A.** Laser hair removal is a medical procedure that uses an intense, beam of focused light to remove unwanted hair. It works by passing a light beam through the skin. When this light beam hits pigment in the hair follicle (where hair growth originates), the hair follicle is destroyed. Hair grows in alternating cycles, and multiple treatments are required to catch each cycle, as the treatment is effective on actively growing hair.

#### **Q. Is the hair removed permanently?**

**A.** Although laser hair removal doesn't guarantee 100% permanent hair removal, it does dramatically remove most dark hairs and what is left is usually finer and less visible.

#### **Q. What parts of the body can be treated?**

**A.** Common treatment locations include legs, armpits, upper lip, chin, and bikini line. However, it is possible to treat unwanted hair in almost any area of the body.

#### **Q. Are there risks?**

Complications from laser hair removal are rare if you go to a qualified doctor.

#### **Q. I'd like to get started. What's the first step?**

**A.** You should meet with a doctor who is board certified in dermatology or a similar specialty before the procedure to determine your treatment plan. Laser hair removal should not be performed by personnel not supervised by a physician. Trust your skin care to the professionals.

**Call Dermatology Associates of the Lowcountry and schedule a consult today  
(843) 689-5259**