### **Dr. Stacy J. Haynes, P.C.** Anniston Dermatology / Haynes Medi-Spa

## **Chemical Peels**

#### Rejuvenate Your Face

Don't let the term "chemical peel" scare you away. A chemical peel refers to the general category for a number of chemical treatments used to exfoliate and rejuvenate the skin. In fact, some milder treatments do not even "peel" the skin. If you've ever wondered how some of your favorite celebrities seem to look so flawless all the time – whether they're picking up their kids from school or attending an awards show – they likely owe their glow to chemical peels.

Lighter peels are really treatments that help skin look smoother and brighter, decrease pore size and can even help with acne. An added bonus is that peels will also help your favorite serum and moisturizer penetrate deeper and be more effective.

Stronger peels, such as a Jessner's and TCA (Trichloracetic Acid) peels, work by triggering your skin's wound healing response by dissolving the upper layers of the skin. As the tissue is removed, a wound is created on the skin which stimulates the body's healing response, causing new tissue to emerge. Just like with superficial peels, the depth and strength of the peel varies based upon the strength of the chemicals used and the length of time the solution is applied.

Have you noticed that some of the most gorgeous celebs — like Jennifer Lopez, Halle Berry and Jennifer Aniston — have all achieved "over the hill" status, but yet the glow of their skin can still make college boys drool? Surprisingly, it's not plastic surgery credited for their youthfulness, but a long history of proactive pampering like religiously exfoliating their faces starting in their 20s, according to Tinsel Town dermatologists. But, before you go scrubbing your skin raw in hopes of reviving your youthful look, you may want to consider the 20-minute treatment chemical peels can offer.

#### How Chemical Peel Treatments Work

Chemical peels were ranked as the third most popular non-invasive cosmetic procedure in 2011. They do not always make you shed like a snake despite its name. Instead, the solution that is layered on your skin helps remove surface layers of cells to expose smoother, more radiant skin with minimal skin irritation and minimal downtime. As the tissue is dissolved and skin heals itself, new tissue emerges and fresher, smoother skin is revealed.

The depth and strength of the peel used varies based on the strength of the chemicals used and the length of time the solution is applied. The formula used by your doctor will be adjusted based on your needs and skin type.

Used to improve skin imperfections such as acne, acne scars, wrinkles, freckles, sun damage and even scars; the treatment exfoliates layers of the skin based on the level of chemical peel used. Another benefit of using chemical peels is that they can be used not only on the face, but on the chest and back as well. Depending on the variation of chemical peel – light medium or deep – the treatment can last up to 20 minutes.

EXFOLIATES DEAD SKIN STIMULATES NEW SKIN CELL PRODUCTION AND TIGHTENS SKIN



#### Short Recover Time

When you indulge in this cosmetic procedure, recovery time can vary from little to no downtime to a few days worth of minor peeling to a week of pink or redness to your skin. Deeper peels cause redness that can last for more than a week, while lighter peels such as AHA (Alpha Hydroxy Acid) or glycolic acid peels can be done undetected even on your lunch break.

While chemical peels are generally mild to your skin, be sure to tell someone if you're using Retin-A or glycolic acid cream because these cosmetic products can make peels more strong or your skin more sensitive. This time-reversing treatment should help you age gracefully

#### Chemical peels: Are They for You?

Chemical peels work well for both men and women, at any age and are the ideal treatment for anyone who wants to restore a more youthful, healthy glow to their skin.

Everything from sun exposure and aging to acne and clogged pores can leave you with uneven skin tone, fine lines, scarring and a lack-lustre complexion. If you want your skin to look smoother, younger and most importantly, vibrant, a chemical peel can make a significant difference.

Chemical peels also work well in conjunction with additional services/procedures: Microdermabrasion, Facials, Oxygen Therapy, Micro-Needling (Dermal Roll), Dermal Fillers and Laser, to name a few.



#### Chemical

#### Peels: Biggest Benefits

One of the least invasive ways to improve the look of your skin, chemical peels offer a whole host of beauty benefits. Some of the biggest are listed below.

- Decreases or diminishes fine lines, wrinkles: Creams, serums and lotions can only do so much. Chemical peels offer a fast-track to smoother, line-free skin.
- Confidence booster: There's no quicker path to confidence than a smooth, glowing complexion.
- Minimal cost: Unlike spending hundreds of dollars on the newest anti-aging products, chemical peels offer concrete results at a reasonable price.
- Fast: Sometimes referred to as the "lunch time peel" chemical peels requires minimal down time, i.e. you can get one, and get back to your life without worrying about recovery.
- Reduced appearance of sun damage and melasma: Sun damage and melasma are two of the hardest skin concerns to treat, but chemical peels stimulate the skin to heal itself by dissolving the surface layers of skin. Through this process you trade damaged skin and dark spots for even tone and a smooth appearance.
- Improves texture: Chemical peels gently exfoliate the skin, increasing cell turnover, which leads to improved texture.
- Enhances collagen growth: Through the exfoliation process brought on by chemical peels, collagen production and cell renewal are stimulated, resulting in younger-looking, healthy skin.
- Vibrant skin: One of the fastest routes to a brighter, glowing complexion is a chemical peel.
- Acne and acne scarring: A mild chemical peel can help reduce the effects of acne on the skin and even minimize blemishes themselves.

# The desire for smooth, healthy, vibrant skin is universal, but achieving it doesn't have to be daunting (or seem like a lost cause). Say yes to a chemical peel.