



The New facelift

Want to look better without going under the knife? Then check out Intracel...

It's been dubbed the radio frequency facelift by beauty insiders and claims to be a revolutionary, new skin tightening procedure. It promises to firm sagging skin around the jawline, neck and eyes – but that's not all! Intracel, whose celeb fans include Anna Friel and Charlie Brooks, also claims to help reduce pore size, plump up deep wrinkles such as those pesky nose-to-mouth lines, and reduce the appearance of acne scars, too. Plus, because the treatment kills off the bacteria that cause spots and minimises the activity of oil glands in the skin, it also promises to reduce acne – leaving you with younger, clearer skin. Sounds great. But does it actually work?

Well, unlike lasers that burn the surface of the skin to promote new skin cell growth, Intracel injects radio frequency energy (heat energy) into the deepest layers of the skin using hundreds of needles.

This causes the skin to think it's been damaged, which stimulates the skin to produce fresh collagen and elastin – the building blocks of youthful skin. Unfortunately, since our skin naturally slows down collagen production in our 40s, which leads to the dreaded skin sagging, we need to give Mother Nature a boost in that department if we want skin to look plump.

How's it done?

The treatment starts with the skin being numbed with an anaesthetic cream, before the Intracel device is turned on and the needles start pulsing. This is worked over the entire face and takes about 15 minutes. But while there's no scalpel, the needles do pierce the skin, so expect some discomfort.

The needles also leave skin red post-treatment, and so a cooling mask is applied. Then depending on how your skin reacts, the redness disappears within either a few hours or at least a few days.

But as the redness ceases, expect to see lots of tiny micro scars appear, but the chemical peel provided in the aftercare pack will help remove this. You're also advised to wear a high factor sunscreen to protect skin from sun damage – even on cloudy days.

How much is it?

One full face treatment costs £795. A course of three treatments (recommended) costs £2,385 and includes an anti-ageing skin care kit, worth £200.

Photos: Rev Features

ANNA FRIEL

Tried & Tested



Karen Buglass

We sent Now Fashion Director, Karen Buglass, to test out the treatment for herself.



She says 'Sick of looking tired all the time, I liked how Intracel is a natural treatment – using skin's own ability to regenerate rather than plumping it with fillers. It wasn't painful, but did sting a bit as the anaesthetic

wore off. It took a week for my skin to look smoother after the first session, and after the third and final session, my skin really perked up. Rather than looking like I've had work done, I look rested, so I'd definitely do it again.'

Karen had Intracel at the Light Touch Clinic (lighttouchclinic.co.uk). To find a clinic near you, visit intraceluk.com