

ASDSA members PROTECT patients from harm

Dermatologic surgeons are the best choice for laser procedures

ASDSA
American Society for
Dermatologic Surgery ASSOCIATION

3.27 million laser procedures were performed by ASDSA members in 2017

DERMATOLOGISTS are the physician of choice for laser procedures, with **patient satisfaction at 90%**

- **Board-certified** dermatologists have gone through medical school and residency and are able to provide quality patient care

7 in 10 INDIVIDUALS are considering a **COSMETIC PROCEDURE**

PROTECTING PATIENTS from adverse events is key when lasers are used to remove, burn or vaporize the skin

- Any laser procedure that can **damage living tissue** is considered the practice of medicine by the American Medical Association and the American College of Surgeons
- Before any laser procedure is done, a **dermatologist** evaluates a patient's current condition, select an appropriate course of treatment and provide adequate information about follow-up care



DIRECT ON-SITE SUPERVISION is **KEY** in protecting **PATIENTS** when delegating procedures to non-physicians

- If a procedure is within the scope of practice of a non-physician provider, it may be delegated through a written protocol after a physician has performed an initial assessment
- The percentage of medical malpractice lawsuits involving **non-physician** use of lasers increased from **38% in 2008** to **78% in 2011**

The use of a written protocol **PROTECTS PATIENTS** from the harmful side effects of inappropriate laser use

- Inappropriate use of lasers can result in permanent scars
- When 123 complications from non-physician laser use were reviewed, 82% of these complications occurred when there was no on-site physician supervision

Contact advocacy@asds.net with questions