

Your Skin



Looking Good, Feeling Good and Your Health

Frustrated by over-the-counter skin care products that promise more than they deliver, an increasing number of people are looking to their doctors for solid answers regarding skin problems that naturally occur with the passage of time.

With new advancements in technology, safe and effective treatments that require little to no down time are now available through physicians to reverse the aging process, renew sun-damaged skin, remove unwanted hair and treat unsightly leg veins. Making a significant investment in this technology is the Woodpark Medical Center in Woodstock, which offers an assortment of medical treatments in a spa-like atmosphere for patients concerned with looking and feeling their best.

Dr. Michael G. Katopes, founder of Woodpark Medical Center and director of the Skin Care Clinic, believes that providing convenience is key to making good skin care available to busy people. “Our family practice is open during weekends, and we have evening hours as well,” he says.

The Skin Care Clinic medical assistant, Dawn Riddle, is certified to operate all of the equipment used to perform procedures, and says that this sets the Skin Care Clinic apart from day spas who might offer similar services. “We’re in a medical setting, and everybody here is medically trained,” Riddle says. “So, we are medically able circumvent or treat any potential problems.”

The most popular procedures offered at the clinic are microdermabrasion and the Vitalize Peel™, both aimed at resurfacing aging or sun-damaged skin. “These are quick procedures,” Riddle explains. “Patients are in and out, and can go about their normal, everyday activities afterward.”

Also available to help keep skin retain the natural factors that keep it healthy is TNS Recovery Complex™, a unique topical gel formulated from a growth factor naturally found in the skin that aids in regeneration of collagen and cell growth.

For patients desiring the benefits of a facelift without the down time and pain associated with a surgical procedure, a non-surgical alternative, Thermage®, is available at the Skin Care Clinic. Thermage® works by protecting the top layers of skin with a cooling spray while radiofrequency energy heats the collagen in the lower layers. The heating action causes the deep structures of your skin to tighten immediately, and new collagen grows over time to further tighten the skin and produce a more youthful appearance for up to six months after treatment.

Other non-invasive procedures include hair removal, laser vein therapy, and photorejuvenation using Intense Pulsed Light (IPL)—a technology that uses controlled flashes of light to penetrate the skin. Once in the skin, the light is absorbed by hair follicles, dilated veins or pigmentation, producing heat damage that is subsequently corrected by the healing process.

Mildly invasive procedures include Botox® Cosmetic and Restylane, injectables used to smooth facial lines and wrinkles. Botox®, a purified protein, treats mild to severe lines in the brow caused by muscle contractions by blocking nerve impulses that generate muscle movement. Restylane is a long lasting cosmetic filler that is used to restore fullness to the skin, plump lips and fill in scarred areas. However, neither treatment is permanent. Patients see results last for approximately four months with the Botox® Cosmetic, and between six and nine months with Restylane.

For those who are interested in a relaxing spa experience, the Skin Care Clinic also offers a menu of body treatments that includes a variety of facials, body wraps, and hand and foot treatments. Katopes believes that the services offered by the Skin Care Clinic are a natural fit for a family practice, stressing that a positive feeling about appearance contributes to overall health. “We offer a very large array of products and services for a family practice,” he says. “Health and beauty are important.”

For more information about The Skin Care Clinic at Woodpark Medical Center visit www.woodparkmedicalcenter.com or call 678-434-0033.

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