From Creams to Lasers: Regulating the Beauty Industry in the New Millennium

Abstract
The paper examines the development and use of lasers for cosmetic procedures. Given the lack of legal and regulatory literature in this important and growing area, the sole focus of this author in writing the paper is to highlight current dangers inherent in the widespread use of cosmetic lasers, as well as to raise considerations that need to be addressed by the government and FDA vis-à-vis the laser industry itself. The use of lasers on the eye, which presents different issues in and of itself, is not discussed except where it reflects generally on the issues relating to cosmetic lasers, and is mentioned briefly in this paper only for the sake of completeness. Part I provides an overview of the regulation of medical devices in the US; part II discusses the use, development, and regulation of medical lasers in the cosmetic industry, and part III details the dangers involved in the current practice of laser treatment, as well as providing a critical overview of the laser industry itself.

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Cosmetic options in the new millennium are varied as well. There are many natural options available for those women who don't want to put a lot of chemicals, preservatives, and additives on their skin. From natural mineral makeup to serums infused into foundation, there is no doubt that the perfect “fit” can now be found. It is also notable that women no longer have to wear their make-up a certain way. Those who prefer a natural look are free to keep it. Those who want to go dark and Goth can feel comfortable as well. Fragrance in the new millennium is lighter, brighter, and quieter. Today’s woman prefers her scent to shine from within rather than an attempt to cover up who she really is. She also doesn't want to offend with heavy odors that give her co-workers a headache. In the 1920s, the film industry in Hollywood had the most influential impact on cosmetics. Stars such as Theda Bara had a substantial effect on the makeup industry. Like most industries, cosmetic companies resist regulation by government agencies. In the U.S., the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not approve or review cosmetics, although it does regulate the colors that can be used in the hair dyes. The cosmetic companies are not required to report injuries resulting from use of their products.[45]. “The Cultural and Philosophical Concepts of Cosmetics in Beauty and Art Through the Medical History of Mankind.” Clinics in Dermatology. 19.4 (2001).