

Ablative, fractional CO2 laser and medical needling to enhance burn scarring in children: A pilot randomised trial

ACTRN12619001317189

Status	RECRUITING
Phase	Phase 3, Phase 4
Sponsor	The University of Queensland
Enrollment	36 participants

Plain Language Summary

Burn scars in children can be both physically and emotionally difficult to live with, particularly when they result in thick, raised, or stiff scars (called hypertrophic scars) that affect movement or appearance. While many treatments exist for burn scarring, this pilot trial is comparing two interventions — ablative fractional CO2 laser therapy and medical needling — against standard care to see which approach produces the best outcomes for children.

Both laser therapy and medical needling work by creating tiny controlled injuries in the scar tissue, which triggers the body's natural healing processes and helps remodel the scar over time. This is a pilot trial being conducted at the Queensland Children's Hospital, with the aim of gathering enough data to design a larger, multi-centre trial in the future.

Your child may be eligible if they are 16 years or younger, have hypertrophic (thickened) burn scarring that is causing cosmetic or functional problems, and are able to attend the study site for treatment and follow-up. Children with hypersensitivity to laser treatments or co-existing skin conditions like eczema are not eligible. This trial is a meaningful step toward better, evidence-based scar treatment for children who have experienced burns.

Key Eligibility Criteria

Inclusion (4)

- Participants will be aged 16 years or younger at the time of recruitment and have:
- Hypertrophic burn scarring of any size at up to 2-months post-burn; and be:
- Able to attend the study sites for treatment and follow-up;
- Hypertrophic scars with functional and/or cosmetic implications determined by patient-report on the Brisbane Burn Scar Impact Profile.

Exclusion (2)

- Hypersensitivity to light/laser treatments as laser therapy would be contraindicated;
- Co-morbid skin disorders (i.e., eczema, dermatitis, skin cancer) as these could confound wound healing and scarring post-intervention.

Locations (1 total)

Queensland Children's Hospital - South Brisbane, QLD, Australia

<https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?ACTRN=ACTRN12619001317189>

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