

Legal Issues

Just exactly who can legally perform VBR has been a question for the last 20 years. There is no clear-cut authoritative answer. Of course a physician can perform this service; but in reality this is not the kind of treatment doctors wish to perform — it's too time consuming. Thus, nurses, estheticians, electrologists (who already have the equipment), and others have become keenly interested in doing this procedure. It is a great source of additional income, with standard treatment fees about \$200 for a 15-minute treatment. (Fees in some areas exceed \$600 for an hour treatment.)

Safety: As I document in my book, VBR is much safer than many standard procedures in esthetics. Safer than micro-dermabrasion and much safer than electrolysis! However, State boards regulating these practices still seem to have “heart attacks” when the technique is mentioned. Never mind that electrolysis destroys much more tissue and is far more dangerous. See pages 12-17 in “Telangiectasia,” by Michael Bono (2005).

The bottom line is this: If you are an independent electrologist or esthetician, this is a “grey area.” Most State boards have made no rulings, but if you are overly cautious this might not be the best choice for you. However, if you work in any capacity with a physician, then he can authorize you to do this work. Medical Spas are virtually everywhere these days, and your “best bet” for finding the right venue. Medical Spas function under a physician’s umbrella, and normally have a physician’s assistant or nurse on hand. Your treatment will be legal in such an establishment.

Medical Spas will “love you.” The treatment always works (seriously, always), and patients are thrilled that such a tiny treatment can erase “broken capillaries” that they may have suffered with for decades! Imagine having to put make-up on such a lesion, and then, after only a few minutes, never to have to do that again! If you decide you want to work in such a Spa, you may contact me and I will assist you in giving the Spa owners all the details that should ensure your placement in the clinic! (email: mikebono@cox.net)

Eventually: At the moment there are many hundreds of practitioners performing VBR in the US, Canada, UK, Europe, Australia and New Zealand (I’ve trained many of them). To date, there have been no reported difficulties with any patient. Eventually when regulatory authorities understand that the treatment has been performed for at least 20 years (actually since 1925) with complete safety, it will be “authorized.” And, that’s how regulatory agencies work: they protect patients from harmful practices. Again, VBR is hundreds of times safer than many standard practices such as permanent make-up, electrolysis, etc. It’s actually safer than having a haircut!