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New laser technology to help burns patients at the hospital

Burns patients at the Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH) will now have access to advanced laser technology for the treatment of burns scars.

A Lumenis Ultra Pulse CO2 Laser has been purchased for the WCH with funds raised by the Australian Professional Fire Fighters Foundation (\$105,000) and the World Police and Fire Games Club (\$45,000).

The Laser will help reduce thick scars from severe burns and is expected to significantly reduce the rate of operations and contracture associated with burns scars.

Head of the Burns Service at the WCH, Bernard Carney, is excited that the WCH can offer children this therapy in a public hospital setting.

"Over the last five years, the WCH Burns Service has seen an increase in the number of major burns in very young children who will consequently require up to 17 years of ongoing medical treatment," Mr Carney said.

"The laser will improve the appearance of burns scars for these children and lessen the hardening of affected skin tissue, helping to make healing a quicker and less painful experience."

The Ultra Pulse Laser can penetrate scar tissue more deeply than other CO2 lasers, and can therefore treat scars that were previously thought to be untreatable by laser therapy.

It works by making microscopic holes in existing scar tissue and stimulating wound healing over and over again. This process eventually remodels the burns scar and makes it softer and more pliable.

"It is also hoped that with ongoing laser treatment, burns patients will experience improved mobility as well as enhanced cosmetic appearance," Mr Carney said.

The Lumenis Ultra Pulse CO2 Laser was officially launched at the hospital today. Members of the Australian Professional Fire Fighters Foundation and the World Police and Fire Games Club were present at the launch, alongside staff from the WCH Burns Service.

The Women's and Children's Hospital Foundation is proud to have collaborated with the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation and the World Police and Fire Games Club to support and recognise their incredible fundraising efforts.

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