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beauty

THE NEW
SKINTELLIGENCE
*time for a
regime change*



We're
Ready
for Our
Close-
Up!

NIP-TUCK CONFIDENTIAL
what you need to know now
ONLY THE BOLD NEED APPLY
statement-making makeup

PHOTOGRAPH BY [unreadable]

With celeb rags documenting lip and nose jobs and plastic-surgery dramas playing in prime time, nips and tucks have gained a new, “everyone’s doing it” vibe. (Why, even the occasional pop singer has been known to give her nose a tweak—shortly after claiming she loved her body in the pages of a national magazine, no less!) But if you’re gonna do it, you have to know what you’re getting into—and what the alternatives are. (Just leave the hypocrisy out of it, thanks.) Here, the facts about the latest techniques

COSMETIC SURGERY LOWDOWN

BY WENDY SCHMID PHOTOGRAPHED BY EDWIN HO

LOOSE SKIN, SUNSPOTS

TREATMENT: Laser skin resurfacing.
DESIGNED FOR: Erasing small moles and sunspots as well as wrinkles from sun exposure.

HOW IT WORKS: The two newest lasers—Titan and Fraxel—both use infrared light to penetrate the skin. Titan goes deeper and stimulates collagen production, which tightens skin over time. Fraxel creates tiny wounds in the upper layer of the skin. As the skin repairs itself, sunspots and moles fade while texture, firmness, and tone improve.

DOWNTIME: Two days of redness and possible flaking with Fraxel. About six hours of redness with Titan.

PROS: Your skin will gradually look renewed without long-lasting redness—or pain.

CONS: It takes four to six weeks to see results, and they aren’t as dramatic as what you see with older lasers. You need about three to five treatments with each.

COST: Titan, about \$1500 to \$2500 per treatment; Fraxel, about \$1200 to \$1500 per treatment. Results should last years, but does recommend an annual touch-up. »