

THE WHAT'S NEW MAGAZINE

Popular Science

EXCLUSIVE
SECRETS OF THE CIA
 Covert Gear of the Super Spies

WIRELESS
WEB WONDERS

10 New Gadgets
 that Set You Free

X
PLANE

Boeing's X-32 (above) and
 Lockheed Martin's X-35 (below)
 vie to be America's next fighter

M **MEDICINE & HEALTH**

COSMETIC SURGERY

Lunch-Time Lasers

AMERICANS are vain, and they're getting even more vain. In 1999, almost twice as many people underwent nonsurgical cosmetic procedures to recapture their youth than did so in 1998. With the advent of better Lasers last year that come close to eliminating the redness, swelling, and bruising commonly associated with such procedures, experts are expecting the numbers to rocket even higher. Newer lasers blast microscopic lesions into the layer of skin directly below the surface, explains David Goldberg, chief of dermatologic surgery at New Jersey Medical School in Newark, to stimulate the birth of new collagen—a protein that gives skin elastic strength. Since the lasers don't target surface skin, the side effects are almost imperceptible. Here's a snapshot of this increasing demand.—G.S

Treatment	Number in 1999	Increase over 1998
Chemical peel	841,777	114%
Botox injections (wrinkles)	498,204	216%
Laser hair removal	481,978	340%
Collagen injection	474,756	29%
Sclerotherapy (varicose veins)	414,797	19%