

SCARRED BY FIRE BUT HEALED BY LOVE AND LASER

The Lumenis Ultrapulse TotalFX Fractionated CO2 laser

Twenty-three years after being severely burned in a house fire, the triplets Trae, Jordan and Chandra Berns have reinvented themselves not as victims but as confident young women who help other burn survivors.

The girls were just 17 months old when their North Fort Worth home burnt down, killing their beautiful young mother in the fire. In critical condition with third-degree burns on 30 to 45 percent of their bodies, the little girls were hospitalized for months. Their doctors were unsure whether they'd live, much less thrive.



But they did survive, enduring numerous surgeries, years of physical therapy and other treatments to help them live with the scars that covered their bodies, twisting their skin in thick, ropey, immobile swirls.

Fortunately, they had each another for love and support. But many burn survivors are not so lucky.

The girls, now 24 and students at the University of Texas at San Antonio, know firsthand how difficult life can be for severe burn survivors.

"When we were in elementary school, the other kids knew our story, so things were fine," said Trae. "But once we got to middle school, and then high school, we became more self-conscious. Kids would stare, point fingers, and whisper things."

They learned to apply thick makeup to cover their facial scarring, and to wear long-sleeved shirts to hide their scarred arms. A few years ago, Chandra learned about a laser procedure that had been shown to be successful in minimizing the appearance of burn scars.

They were treated with the Lumenis Ultrapulse TotalFX Fractionated CO2 laser - the same state-of-the-art laser that we have here at ADVANCED.

After their laser treatments the difference is clearly evident: Their skin is smoother, more evenly colored and less ropey. The girls still wear makeup but have to use less now. An observer must look closely to detect any scarring.

"I don't think twice about my scars anymore," said Trae. "A lot of that is because of the laser but also because we've matured and become more self-confident."

Today at UTSA, Jordan and Trae are studying occupational therapy and Chandra is majoring in communications and public relations, with a minor in business management.



In addition they have started their own Foundation to provide emotional and medical support for burn survivors and their families.

We are so proud of the Beautiful Berns sisters and wish them all the best in all their future endeavors.