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### Radiance® MedSpa

[Radiance Medspa](#) is nestled in a storefront in a charming shopping mall in suburban Wheaton, just west of Chicago and easily accessible by Route 38 or Naperville Road. Parking was a breeze for me when I visited during the day, and the shops in the area are quite the temptation.

Upon entering [Radiance](#), I was pleasantly surprised by its cheerful and soothing vibe; the entrance and waiting room is sunny, and the warm scent from a nearby candle wafted its welcome. A luxurious seating area with a plush couch, chairs and the gentle sounds of a trickling waterfall set the stage for soothing. Tea and water are available for all guests on a whim, and private treatment rooms, a beautifully-decorated bathroom and a "refreshing station," equipped with makeup and tools for clients that want to freshen up before heading out, complete the space.

The focus of the Medspa is wellness and corrective treatments, all of which are performed by experienced clinicians. Dr. John V. Belmonte, Jr., M.D., FACS, is the medical director of [Radiance](#), overseeing the staff and treatments. Dr. Sonal Patel, Ph.D., the Medspa director, greeted me. Dr. Patel boasts a doctorate in molecular biology, partnered with an impressive expertise in all things skin care.

Each guest benefits from a personalized skin care analysis and consultation session to determine his or her goals. And [Radiance](#) makes achieving those goals attainable, by educating guests in laymen's terms about treatment options, as well as skin care facts (and myths), plus post-treatment services and treatment follow-up. Every treatment, from facials to Microdermabrasion to Botox® and beyond, is designed to produce superior results. [Radiance](#) also carries VitaMedica products, targeting specific skin care concerns with vitamins, as well as SkinMedica and *jane iredale*, the skin care makeup.

After I filled out an extensive form detailing my skin and medical issues, Dr. Patel took me into a private room to discuss my complexion concerns. I had a myriad of issues - a very red vein near my nose, sun damage, splotchy skin, and, of course, fine lines here and there. Dr. Patel reassured me that, with the correct treatments, all of my skin care woes were fixable.

She suggested we start off with a Digital Skin Analysis. A machine was used to take pictures of my skin which were then uploaded to the nearby laptop. As the images were uploaded, Dr. Patel showed me before and after photos of clients who had photofacials and cellulite treatments - they were impressive, to say the least.

A few moments later my face was up on the computer screen, blown up in all of its imperfect glory. But this was no time to be shy - these digital images would determine how Dr. Patel and her expert staff would "fix" my skin. For example, the program compared my skin to others in my age group. I found out that if I met 100 women of my age on the street, I would have less wrinkles than 93 of them. Good news! On the other hand, I'd have more sunspots than 37 of those women. And that was a statistic that I was ready to do something about. Dr. Patel felt confident that with a Photofacial I would begin the process of successfully eradicating many of my biggest skin care concerns, from sunspots to broken blood vessels.

Next, I was introduced to the nurse who would be performing the Photofacial. She led me to a tastefully-appointed treatment room and went over the procedure step-by-step. [Radiance](#) uses the Palomar Pulsed Light Systems, where laser and pulsed light remove skin imperfections, including sunspots, veins, rosacea and skin discolorations. She told me how the treatment would feel (uncomfortable at worst, and more bearable than a bikini wax); how long it would take (about 20 minutes); what my skin would look like afterwards (tiny black dots would appear before a new spot free look emerged); and how to care for my skin afterwards (slather on the sunscreen!).

After my procedure, the nurse gave me an ice pack for my face and warned me that

my skin would feel like it was sunburned, and it did. But when I looked in the mirror, I was surprised to see that my face was not red at all. Eventually, tiny, little black dots started to appear on my face just as I had been told. These dots are the discolorations rising to the surface, and they flake off in 7 to 21 days, the approximate healing time period.

One week later, the black dots were 80 percent gone, revealing smooth, even skin. I was most impressed that the very red and noticeable vein I had near my nose was significantly decreased in size and much paler. The nurse said because the vein was so large to begin with, it would probably take one more treatment to completely eradicate it. But it is far less noticeable now, and thankfully I'm no longer self-conscious about it.

From the complimentary Digital Skin Analysis and consultation that each guest receives at [Radiance](#), to cutting edge medspa services performed in a soothing spa-like environment, [Radiance Medspa](#) marries science and skin care for beauty aficionados in Chicago's West Suburbs and beyond..

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