Imagine a time when light, laser and energy treatments replace the ‘surgery’ of plastic surgery to not only heal the changes of aging within the skin but actually begin to prevent these changes as well. At The Key Laser Institute for Aesthetic Medicine, that time is now.

What is Aesthetic Medicine? Dr. Key describes this new approach to the changes of aging as combining the beauty of form with the healing aspects of medicine. “It is not about altering your appearance but simply restoring the skin to its own natural best,” he says. Improving a person’s everyday appearance leads to better self esteem and ultimately, an improved sense of well-being.

It’s also about you having alternatives. Plastic surgery, with its sometimes lengthy recovery process, used to be your only option. The ‘instruments’ of Aesthetic Medicine leave behind the scalpel blade of the past and instead combine the use of light, laser and energy techniques in a more holistic approach. Light, laser and energy, along with applied antioxidants and sometimes applied skin hormonal therapy, are added to the art, science and skill of lipografting and lipospiration. This approach works not only to create a more vital and youthful appearance but also to remove deforming birthmarks, “port wine” stains, acne scarring, gunpowder blast injuries and unwanted tattoos.

The Key Laser Institute’s advantage has been Dr. Key’s role in the development of advanced science and technology for this new area of medicine, leading to the acquisition of innovative new equipment and techniques two or three years ahead of other practitioners in the area. This dedication to innovation has made Key Laser Institute a site for many firsts: They have led the way with effective treatment for unwanted blushed and rosaceaal redness with intense pulsed light treatment. Last year alone, Key Laser’s use of laser-activated photodynamic therapy to treat sun damaged and pre-cancerous skin received national attention. And while the Key Laser Institute was the first on the West Coast to begin using lasers to treat spider veins, in the past year they performed the first successful endovascular laser procedure in Oregon for the treatment of varicose veins. Because of this exciting advancement in leg vein treatment, the Key Laser Institute is opening a new, specialized division called the Key Laser Institute for Leg Vein Treatment. Last year, the Key Laser Institute was the only Northwest site selected to take part in the development of the Thermage® treatment technology, a non-surgical process of skin tightening of the face, neck and body. Thermage® uses radio-frequency energy to stimulate a deep tissue response of tightening and repair. This opened the doorway to Dr. Key’s exclusive Layered Light™ Face Lifting without Surgery™. His patients who have been treated achieved brow lifting that was equivalent to results obtained only with surgery before this point. This patented treatment approach, Layered Light™, effectively works to smooth fine lines and wrinkles, restore skin color, eliminate broken blood vessels and excessive redness as well as regaining collagen toning. These treatments are useful not just for the face but the neck, chest, arms and other parts of the body.

Dr. Key’s focus on energy rather than surgery reflects a growing awareness among his counterparts both in the U.S. and abroad that the emerging field of Aesthetic Medicine will be the treatment of choice in the future. Because of his unique approach, Dr. Key’s patients look younger and healthier today than they did six or seven years ago. “No one has ever asked me to make them look younger. Our patients are really saying ‘I want to look as good as I feel.’ Youthfulness is not looking young, it is showing the vitality and energy that is within all of us. And for the first time, the science is beginning to emerge-through Thermage® and light, laser and energy uses-such that we can begin to prevent aging. For the first time, we have the capability of the re-suspension of tissue, the reparative process,” Dr. Key explains. “We cannot yet stop the hands of time from moving, but the clock is now ticking very slowly.”

Dr. Key’s credentials speak for themselves. Board-certified in dermatology, he has also become one of the world leaders in Aesthetic Medicine. Another star in Portland’s medical firmament.