

## MORE CUTTING-EDGE CURES

High-tech speed healers coming to your hospital or doctor's office soon

**FOR SURGICAL WOUNDS** Doctors have found that when they apply **platelet-rich plasma** (a substance they cull from the patient's own blood) to an incision, healing time is almost cut in half.

**FOR COLD SORES** Researchers in England recently discovered that zapping facial cold sores with a **narrowband laser** knocked about 3 days off healing time. Best of all, you can do it yourself with the Virulite CS (available at [walgreens.com](http://walgreens.com)). The handheld at-home laser device sells for about \$80.



### FOR A BROKEN ARM

Applied to fractures, cloned cells called **morphogenetic proteins** have been shown to speed up the healing of fractured

tibiae by about a month. These cells are applied to a collagen sponge to form an implant used to cover the fracture.

**FOR SKIN WOUNDS** **Insulin**, known primarily as the hormone that regulates sugar levels in the blood, may soon be used to treat skin wounds that are slow to heal—a common problem among diabetics. Scientists at the University of California, Riverside, have discovered that applying the hormone directly to wounds dramatically speeds up the development of microvascular cells, which develop into tiny blood vessels that will bring nutrients to the injury.