



BEFORE

Acne made Sofia, 22, feel ugly and alone



AFTER

Her skin was cleared with laser treatment

'MIRACLE SURGERY CHANGED MY LIFE'

Sofia Afgan's life was almost ruined when her face erupted in acne

'Not another one, I thought as I looked in the mirror.

'As a teenager I always had spots. I tried treatments and concealers but it was hopeless.

"Don't worry," my mum always said. "It's just a phase."

'But at 17 it was still bad. My doctor prescribed tablets and thankfully my skin cleared up. I started college and loved it. I partied all the time and flirted with loads of blokes. I was going to finish the course, be an air stewardess and see the world.

'But one morning I woke up with ugly red lumps across my

forehead. Within days pimples covered my whole face.

"Have you had an allergic reaction?" my friend asked.

'But I hadn't. I spent hours crying in my room. I became self-conscious – convinced people were laughing at me. I was 18 and didn't even have the confidence to apply for my dream air hostess job or speak to new people, never mind chatting up blokes.'

'It was painless'

'Every Saturday night, I sat in front of the TV while my mates went out in Southampton. It was miserable. One night

I saw a newspaper advert for N-Lite, a form of laser treatment to remove acne, at The Private Clinic in London. It sounded great. I rang them the next day and was told I only needed three one-hour treatments to clear the acne.

'Weeks later I saw another advert – this time for airline staff. This was my chance. But when I read the application form, my heart sank.

"Do you suffer from any of the following..."

'Below was a list of health problems – including acne. With a heavy heart, I ticked the box. They'll never call now. But to my surprise,

two weeks later I was invited for an interview.

"You said you suffer from acne," the interviewer said. "Are you treating it?"

'I explained I was due to have N-Lite. The next week I had my first treatment. It was painless, just a flickering, and within weeks I wasn't getting any new spots. By the third treatment the scars were gone. The change was amazing.

'Now, I don't wear much make-up and I'm going out again. Even better – I got the job! The first time I walked through the airport, I had to pinch myself. It's hard to believe I'm living my dream.'

WORDS: LUCY TAYLOR