

Dermosonic Uses Complementary Modalities to Improve Cellulite

By Bob Kronemyer, Associate Editor

Ultrasound and vacuum pressure massage is a winning combination for improving cellulite and tissue circulation with the Dermosonic system from Symedex Medical (Minneapolis, Minn.).

“We now have the ability to rapidly improve cellulite,” said Jeffrey Riopelle, M.D., a cosmetic dermatologist in private practice in San Ramon, Calif. “Ultrasound and massage are complementary modalities that achieve very effective results.” Dr. Riopelle typically schedules ten sessions (twice weekly). “Patients can expect an excellent reduction in cellulite, and to some degree a reduction in inches. In most cases, there is an 80% to 90% reduction in cellulite. After completing a series of treatments, patients come in once a month for a maintenance program.”



Jeffrey Riopelle, M.D.

Thighs, buttocks and abdomen are the most popular areas treated by Dr. Riopelle. A typical standard session lasts about 45 minutes. “Ultrasound is performed first, which takes about ten minutes, followed by about 30 minutes of vacuum suction,” he said. Patients are also placed on a dietary regimen that usually includes a low carbohydrate eating plan and minimal alcohol intake.

Dr. Riopelle sometimes combines the Dermosonic with mesotherapy. “If a patient needs to lose inches as well as cellulite, we will first perform ultrasound, followed by up to 40 injections of mesotherapy solution. We alternate weekly sessions of Dermosonic and

“I believe the Dermosonic dramatically enhances the effect of mesotherapy because in a sense it milks the fat into the lymphatics, so that fat can be carried away from the area being worked on.”

mesotherapy. I believe the Dermosonic dramatically enhances the effect of mesotherapy because in a sense it milks the fat into the lymphatics, so that fat can be carried away from the area being worked on.”

Patients interested in weight loss have been attracted to Dr. Riopelle’s cosmetic practice. “In addition to



Before Tx

After Dermosonic Tx

wanting to lose cellulite, these patients are interested in other procedures I offer, such as light-based therapies.”

Michael Rosenbaum, M.D., who performs cosmetic procedures in the San Francisco area, considered purchasing an endodermology unit instead of the Dermosonic. “However, I don’t like that patients need to wear a body suit with endodermology. This is often cumbersome and the suit takes time to get into. A body suit can also be very uncomfortable. Endodermology is not convenient for a patient who is in a rush and prefers to do the procedure over lunch.”

Besides requiring no body suit, the Dermosonic “is very gentle and non-invasive. People describe treatment as a relaxing massage. There is also no bruising,” Dr. Rosenbaum noted. “The goal is to increase local blood circulation in an effort to free trapped fat and fluid.” For optimal effectiveness, Dr. Rosenbaum recommends two treatments a week for as many sessions as needed. “Patient compliance with diet and exercise is also important.”

The Dermosonic system features seven preset programs and ultrasound with a 3 MHz applicator. “You are nicely instructed and timed with all the different movements, including figure eight, linear and circular. The machine is very easy to operate,” Dr. Rosenbaum said. There is also an optional 1 MHz applicator and a facial applicator. “The Dermosonic can be used for toning skin or for local fat removal. Other patients come in simply for detoxification and lymphatic drainage.” ■