

# Spectra Laser Toning

## Provides Advanced Melasma Treatment

By Bob Kronemyer, Associate Editor



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Although melasma is a commonly acquired pigmentary disorder found in skin types III through V, attempts to treat the condition with lasers and other light-based sources that target melanin frequently result in irritation, post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation (PIH) and other complications. Furthermore, on occasion, such treatment modalities worsen the melasma in Asian patients.

Still, some innovative technologies have shown encouraging results in reducing melasma among Asian women. For example, Takahiro Fujimoto, M.D., of Clinic F in Tokyo, Japan, has reported success with a carbon-assisted soft laser peel (a superficial photomechanical peeling therapy) using a short-pulsed Q-switched Nd:YAG. This technology has proven effective for epidermal type melasma and may also help to improve dermal type melasma.

Alternatively, Spectra Laser Toning with the Spectra VRM II Q-switched Nd:YAG laser system from Lutronic Corporation (Ilsan, Korea) is a new technique that does not require any photo enhancers (carbon lotion). Instead, the procedure uses the 1064 nm wavelength to penetrate and target melanin in the deep dermis, thus making it ideal for dermal melasma and mixed types of melasma.

Spectra Laser Toning is an advanced protocol for reducing the abnormal production of melanosome. The protocol begins with a low fluence parameter setting and multiple passes during each treatment session. "The optimum fluence setting is determined by the reaction of the skin," said Jin Soo Kang, M.D. of Kanghan Skin Clinic in Seoul. "The endpoint can be accurately judged by visually monitoring the patient."

Because Spectra Laser Toning is a non-ablative procedure, "the ideal endpoint is mild erythema within the

melasma area, without pinpoint bleeding," Dr. Kang said. "Typically, patients can complete the procedure without the use of topical anesthetics." In addition, post treatment erythema normally lasts ten minutes to one hour only, with no bleeding, scabbing or attendant risk of infection. Patients schedule between five to eight sessions, spaced seven to ten days apart, until the melasma is no longer visible.

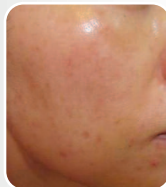
According to Dr. Kang, who has considerable experience treating this condition, "Melasma is an easily irritated and recurring skin disorder. Unfortunately, most peeling therapies are only suitable for epidermal melasma. For dermal melasma, Spectra Laser Toning is probably the best approach."

Spectra VRM II laser system's uniform beam profile and dual pulse width, "makes it possible to attain reliable and predictable clinical results without any significant risk of adverse reactions," Dr. Kang conveyed. "The mechanism that Spectra Laser Toning employs harnesses the body's natural defenses to clean up the disrupted melanosome particles. Clinical results are quite dramatic."

According to Dr. Kang, Spectra Laser Toning has now become the gold standard for the treatment of melasma. "I have treated many patients, all with very high satisfaction. The best part is that a patient can be treated in as little as ten minutes." Treatments can also be combined with other complementary therapies to achieve multiple clinical advantages, "making Spectra Laser Toning ideal for epidermal and dermal melasma," Dr. Kang added.



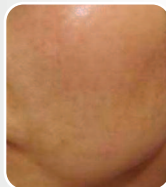
Before Tx



After second Spectra Laser Toning Tx



Before Tx



After fifth Spectra Laser Toning Tx