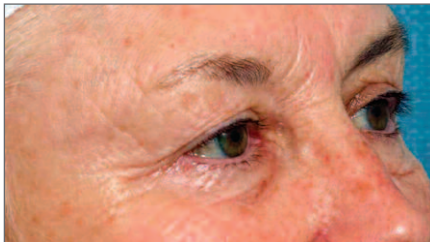


Fraxel re:pair Laser Presents Breakthrough Non-Surgical Eyelid Tx

By Bob Kronemyer, Associate Editor



Before Tx



After Fraxel re:pair Tx

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Before Tx



After Fraxel re:pair Tx

According to Roy Geronemus, M.D., director of the Laser & Skin Surgery Center of New York (New York City, N.Y.), non-surgical treatment of eyelids can be nearly as effective as surgical blepharoplasty with the Fraxel re:pair™ (Reliant Technologies, Mountain View, Calif.) laser system.

"Treatment is remarkably effective," reported Dr. Geronemus, who was an investigator of a retrospective study of treatment around the eyes in patients who underwent therapy with the Fraxel re:pair laser. "In that study, we noticed tightening of the upper eyelids." Tightening also occurred in the lower lids, plus there was reduction of wrinkles. "However, we are still in the process of determining the most effective parameters," he added.

Reliant's Fraxel re:pair laser system offers Fractional Deep Dermal Ablation (FDDA™) treatment with a CO₂ laser, producing comparable results to traditional bulk ablative treatments but with less downtime and risks. Distinguished by its ability to ablate tissue deep within the dermis, the Fraxel re:pair laser creates deep microscopic ablative zones surrounded by undamaged tissue. This is in contrast to traditional CO₂ lasers that produce a thin, general ablation of the entire surface.

For treating around the eyes with the Fraxel re:pair laser, Dr. Geronemus recommends one or two sessions, spaced about four to eight weeks apart. The eye is protected with metal ocular shields, following the application of a topical anesthetic. "I use lower energy settings than for other parts of the face," Dr. Geronemus said. "You also need to be mindful that some of these patients may have undergone a previous surgical blepharoplasty, which will limit the extent of treatment provided by the Fraxel re:pair system."

FDDA therapy with the Fraxel re:pair laser penetrates up to 1.6 mm and demonstrates results "that are extraordinary," stated Dr. Geronemus, a clinical professor of dermatology at New York University Medical Center (New York, N.Y.). Additionally, "treatment is very quick, with rapid healing and the procedure is extremely safe. We are not observing the pigmentary change found with bulk ablative technologies, and no surgery is required. There is reason to expect that the results of Fraxel re:pair treatment should last several years."

Treating the eyelids alone takes just a few minutes. "However, there is wounding that takes about five days to heal," Dr. Geronemus noted. "In general, patients are re-epithelialized in three days." With surgical blepharoplasty, "there is more wounding over a broader area."

Dr. Geronemus is treating both men and women around the eyes with the Fraxel re:pair laser system. "Patient acceptance has been extraordinarily high and patients have been uniformly very happy," he said.

Dr. Geronemus has also had success using the Fraxel re:pair laser for other popular dermatologic indications. "We have seen significant improvement in overall photodamage, moderate – and some deep – wrinkles and in skin tightening, including on the neck," he said. "There has also been improvement in three types of scars: surgical, traumatic and acne. Overall, I believe the Fraxel re:pair system represents a major advance in ablative technology and has resurrected the carbon dioxide laser."