

MedArt's CO₂ Laser Features New Scanner for Consistent and Rapid Tx

By Bob Kronemyer, Associate Editor

MedArt A/S's (ASAH Medico, Hvidovre, Denmark) FRx system is a CO₂ laser featuring a new scanner for fractional resurfacing treatments that are not only consistent and rapid, but successfully bridge the gap between skin rejuvenation and skin resurfacing.

"This laser is quite versatile and provides customized treatments," said Johannes Lang, M.D., a plastic surgeon in private practice in Erlangen, Germany. "Energy settings range from 0.1 to 15 W, along with a flexible fiber. The spot density also varies from 36 to 100 spots per square centimeter."

Dr. Lang treats signs of aging skin (lines, freckles), age spots, large pores, acne scars, neck, décolleté and hands with the FRx system. "One session normally reverses the signs of aging by two to three years," he said. "And with one treatment for the neck, which is nearly painless, more than four years can be reversed."

For hands, three to four sessions are recommended, every three to five weeks. The face requires four sessions, two to three weeks apart. Acne scars show a visible reduction "even after one treatment," Dr. Lang noted. "But for the best improvement, patients need three to five treatments overall, three to five weeks apart. Every additional session results in an improvement in the acne scars."

Furthermore, for all indications, "there is really no downtime," Dr. Lang continued. Patients have slight redness that lasts

just two or three hours, then on the third day they develop some visible small spots that disappear two days later. However, patients can apply makeup immediately following treatment.

According to Dr. Lang, it takes patients six weeks after the final treatment session to achieve optimal results. "After four weeks, patients feel activity on the tissue," he said. For patients who achieve ten years of age reversal, "I expect the results will last six to seven years."

For all treatments, patient discomfort is minimal, in part because treatment speed "is quite high," said Dr. Lang, who typically treats at 3 ms per pulse. "Most patients expected more pain. At first, I applied EMLA cream. But now I have reduced the pain management to localized cooling for ten seconds before treatment."

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FRx's spot size ranges from 0.3 to 0.4 mm. "Again, at first, I thought it would be better to have a smaller spot," Dr. Lang said. "But I have found the current spot size to be a good fit."

Over the past two months, Dr. Lang has performed 30 to 40 treatments with the FRx system. The scanner is based on the popular technology that MedArt has manufactured for many years. "This scanner is very fast and comfortable to use," Dr. Lang conveyed. "Treating a cheek area for skin rejuvenation takes only one minute per side. It is very user-friendly and results are consistent."

According to Dr. Lang, the FRx system is also small and compact, with low maintenance. Moreover, compared to competing fractional systems, "it is the optimal compromise between patient comfort, safety and performance. With this technology, there are no open wounds or infection risks," he noted.

Dr. Lang, president of *European Laser Aesthetic Surgery* (ELAS), believes that CO₂ lasers with fractional capability represent the single greatest advancement in cosmetic laser procedures over the past 20 years.