

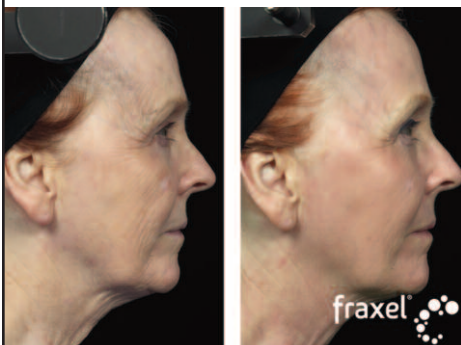
# Fraxel re:pair Laser Achieves Significant Results with Little Downtime and Fewer Risks

By Bob Kronemyer, Associate Editor



Before Tx      After Fraxel Tx  
Photos courtesy of Zakia Rahman, M.D.

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In December 2007, the Fraxel re:pair™ laser system from Reliant Technologies (Mountain View, Calif.) became the industry's only FDA cleared fractional ablative technology to treat wrinkles, rhytides, furrows, fine lines, textural irregularities, pigmented lesions and vascular dyschromia.

Richard Fitzpatrick, M.D., a dermatologist in private practice in La Jolla, Calif., believes the Fraxel re:pair's fractional CO<sub>2</sub> technology represents a quantum leap over existing CO<sub>2</sub> lasers on the market. "Traditional CO<sub>2</sub> laser resurfacing achieved significant results for rejuvenation of sun damaged skin on the face; however, it came with the risks of scarring and pigmentation loss," he noted. "I believe the Fraxel re:pair laser eliminates most of these risks considerably, while still achieving significant improvement not only in sun damage, but in acne scars and scars of all types."



Richard Fitzpatrick, M.D.  
Dermatologist  
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Dr. Fitzpatrick is equally excited about using the Fraxel re:pair laser to successfully treat areas off the face. "We now have a device that can be used aggressively and safely on the neck, hands and arms for sun damage and skin tightening, especially skin on the neck," he said.

The Fraxel re:pair laser's Intelligent Optical Tracking system creates a uniform matrix of dots (similar to pixels on a photograph) – also known as Microscopic Treatment Zones (MTZs) – to vaporize tissue. "These tiny channels of vaporization are parallel to each other, yet separated by non-treated skin," Dr. Fitzpatrick explained. "This technique is revolutionary because you now have the capability to penetrate deeper than any peel, and in a safe manner. You can also reach the

depth of scar tissue." The laser can treat safely at a depth of up to 1600 microns at 70 mJ pulse energy.

Any patient with significant acne scarring on the face, neck or chest is a candidate for treatment, according to Dr. Fitzpatrick. Patients with excessive sun damage and textural changes that cause heavy crepiness on the cheeks and necks also benefit.

"Most of the time, sun damage can be treated in one or two sessions, spaced about three months apart to allow for a substantial formation of new collagen," said Dr. Fitzpatrick, an associate clinical professor of dermatology at the University of California, San Diego. The Fraxel re:pair laser also provides a synergistic effect with the non-ablative Fraxel re:store laser. Scheduling two Fraxel re:pair treatment sessions, followed by two sessions of the Fraxel re:store laser, "has provided outstanding results," he said.

Although the Fraxel re:store laser has no downtime for wound healing, patients may have redness or swelling for three or four days which can be easily concealed with makeup. The Fraxel re:pair laser, on the other hand, is associated with some degree of crusting (in addition to redness and swelling) that can last a few days, depending on treatment aggressiveness.

With the Fraxel re:pair laser, patients can expect "significant softening of lines, smoothing of irregular texture, elimination of unwanted brown and red pigmentation – especially brown – and mild-to-moderate tightening of the skin," Dr. Fitzpatrick noted. "Acne scars should also improve greater than 50% after two sessions." Moreover, the laser "does a great job around the eyes. You achieve better texture and tightening of skin, as well as elimination of fine lines and softening of deeper lines."