

Lutronic's Combined Treatment Achieves Total Facial Restoration

By Bob Kronemyer, Associate Editor

Patients unwilling or unable to undergo a traditional surgical face-lift are finding dramatic results in a single treatment session with two lasers from Lutronic, Inc. (Princeton Junction, N.J.). The 1444 nm Nd:YAG Acculift provides minimally invasive facial contouring and the 10,600 nm eCO2 offers fractional resurfacing. However, even better outcomes can be achieved when combining these lasers with a face-lift.

"The Acculift is good for sculpting and is excellent for volume reduction, whereas the eCO2 is excellent for skin tightening," said Farhan Taghizadeh, M.D., a facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon in private practice in Albuquerque, N.M. "The problem with skin tightening in the neck is that it is difficult to effectively treat this area with lasers. Hence, the eCO2 is basically used to treat the entire face, including reducing fine lines, wrinkles and improving tone and texture of the facial skin, while the Acculift is excellent for treating the jowl and neck." Dr. Taghizadeh also noted that the 1444 nm wavelength of the Acculift is the "new frequency for maximizing lipolysis."

J. David Holcomb, M.D., a facial plastic and cosmetic laser surgeon in private practice in Sarasota, Fla., appreciates that the hand-piece of the eCO2 is highly ergonomic and that the treatment tips are easily interchangeable for different spot sizes (120, 300 and 1,000 microns). "I tend to use the 120 micron spot the most because we are able to achieve tremendous skin tightening in a single treatment," he advised. "This includes crêpey loose skin around the upper and lower eyelid area. We also use the 120 micron spot in higher densities on the neck and



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décolleté, as well as the back of the hands for some really nice improvement. The 300 micron spot does not penetrate as deep, so it is very good for dyschromia."

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The Acculift, on the other hand, "is a unique device among lipolysis lasers because it takes advantage of the dual absorption peaks for both water and fat," Dr. Holcomb continued. "This makes treatment very efficient." In addition, thermal confinement allows for the heat to be confined to the area near the treatment

tip, "so the heat does not spread as rapidly as other wavelength lasers."

Most of Dr. Holcomb's patients opt for topical and regional nerve blocks when combining Acculift and eCO2 fractional laser resurfacing. "This is absolutely a winning combination to ablate and remove descended malar and jowl fat, as well as to elicit skin tightening and to reverse skin photo-damage in a single session," he said. Dr. Holcomb strongly believes in the benefits of combination approaches and often blends Acculift and eCO2 treatments with soft tissue augmentation (adjacent to Acculift treatment areas) and face-lift procedures.

A treatment session combining the Acculift and the eCO2 with a surgical face-lift lasts about 2.25 hours, starting with the Acculift, "which melts fat, while at the same time shoots energy up at the skin from below, for an internal dermal contraction around where the fat has been removed," Dr. Taghizadeh explained. This is followed by performing the face-lift and ending with the eCO2. "The eCO2 produces small holes in the skin for neocollagenesis of the papillary dermis," he added.



Before Tx



After Tx
Photos courtesy of Daniel Man, M.D.

According to Dr. Taghizadeh, the combined treatment is ideal for patients ranging in age from 45 to 85. "Generally, outcomes have been excellent, along with high customer satisfaction," he stated. "This has been a great advancement in our patient care. By using a nerve block, pain has not been much of a concern." The recovery phase is roughly seven to ten days, and follow-up photography at six weeks usually shows good results. "At three months, optimal results are achieved," he observed.