

# VASER Enhances Safety and Results for Submental Procedures



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Before Tx

After Tx

Photos courtesy of Stephen A. Goldstein, M.D., F.A.C.S.



Before Tx



After Tx

Photos courtesy of John A. Grossman, M.D.

## By Desiree Ifft, Contributing Editor

Offering unique technology with dual mode settings, the VASER Lipo System, from Sound Surgical Technologies, LLC (Louisville, Colo.), is an ideal tool for procedures involving the delicate tissues of the submental region.

"Earlier generation ultrasound instruments were simply too powerful for these areas," said Stephen A. Goldstein, M.D., F.A.C.S., a plastic surgeon at Denver Face and Body in Englewood, Colo., who has used the VASER system in more than 100 face and neck procedures. "This platform is more gentle and predictable, which leads to better outcomes."

According to John A. Grossman, M.D., a plastic surgeon with practices in Denver, Colo., and Beverly Hills, Calif., easy and quick definition of the neck and jawline is one example of what can be accomplished with VASER. "Due to the delicate nature of the submental region, it is particularly important to avoid excessive delivery of ultrasound energy," he explained. "In this regard, the VASER Lipo System has several advantages compared with other lipoplasty platforms."

Dr. Grossman also pointed out that compared to other platforms; the VASER system uses roughly half of the ultrasound energy to emulsify the same amount of fat, thus reducing the risk of thermal complications. In addition, the surgeon can choose between continuous and pulsating modes. "Continuous mode is appropriate for dealing with more fibrous tissue and for higher-speed fragmentation. Pulsating mode is appropriate for softer tissue and situations in which finer sculpting is the goal, as in the submental region."

The probes designed for use with the VASER system also offer specific advantages for submental procedures, Dr. Grossman added. They deliver ultrasound energy efficiently, which means smaller probes and smaller

incisions can be utilized. Furthermore, the probes are available with one, two or three tip grooves, or rings.

As Dr. Goldstein explained, the number of rings affects the dispersion of energy. "In more delicate areas such as the face, a three-ring probe disperses energy over a wider area, which is gentler, yet still efficient."

Skin contraction can be an additional benefit provided by the VASER system, according to Dr. Grossman. Since a lower amount of ultrasound energy is delivered, the risk of thermal complications is minimized. Consequently, the probe can be used more extensively in the superficial fatty layer, producing more skin contraction and better contouring.

"In cases where there is too much skin or too much muscle laxity to respond to VASER alone, it can certainly be combined with more extensive procedures to reach the desired endpoint," Dr. Grossman added. Dr. Grossman often uses the VASER system for submental shaping and dissection, in conjunction with a traditional face- or neck lift, tightening technique or other procedure. He has also used the VASER system to harvest fat from one area of the body for transplant into another area.

Dr. Goldstein also appreciates the versatility of the VASER system. "A nice aspect of this platform is that it incorporates all three elements necessary for a liposuction procedure into a single instrument – fluid infiltration, ultrasound emulsification and aspiration. Furthermore, by altering the power, we can use the system to facilitate fat removal and contouring, as well as dissection and skin flap elevation. VASER is a relatively reasonably priced device with a wide-range of applications. It can be incorporated into any surgical approach for any part of the body, including the face and neck."