

Fraxel re:pair Fractional Laser Achieves Traditional Ablative Results

By Bob Kronemyer, Associate Editor

Reliant Technologies' (Mountain View, Calif.) Fraxel re:pair™ laser is a CO₂ laser utilizing a true fractional mode of delivery to provide the results of traditional bulk ablative lasers with significantly less downtime and risk of adverse events.

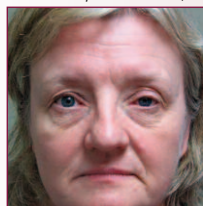
"I'm achieving more tightening than I have seen with any other technology," said Howard Conn, M.D., an ocular plastic surgeon in private practice in Irvine, Calif. "The Fraxel re:pair is exceptional for deeper applications, such as severe wrinkles and acne scarring. For more superficial indications, like pigment, tone and texture, I can reduce the energy thereby optimizing the treatment and outcome." According to Dr. Conn only one treatment session, which lasts 20 to 25 minutes for the face, is all that is required.



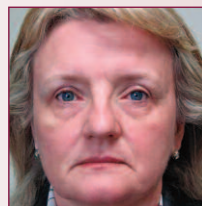
Howard Conn, M.D.
Ocular Plastic Surgeon
Irvine, CA

Unlike other fractional skin rejuvenation systems, the Fraxel re:pair laser's delivery system is a scanning technology rather than a stamping technique. "Therefore, we get an extremely uniform application of the spots that we apply, without the potential for skipping areas or overlapping that can

Photos courtesy of Howard Conn, M.D.



Before Tx



Six weeks after bilateral upper lid blepharoplasty, left upper lid ptosis repair and Fraxel re:pair face.

occur with stamping technology," Dr. Conn noted.

"Patients look great at six weeks," Dr. Conn reported. "They will also continue to improve because histologies have shown that the collagen production will last at least six months." Dr. Conn also expects results to last five to ten years, as with the UltraPulse CO₂ laser from Lumenis (Santa Clara, Calif.).

"The Fraxel re:pair laser is the first device I have used that truly approaches ablative laser resurfacing."

"I think the long-term risks for hypopigmentation and scarring will be a lot less with the Fraxel re:pair laser," added Suzanne Kilmer, M.D., director of the Laser Skin and Surgery Center of Northern California, in Sacramento. "This laser can really remodel scars and can repigment even white atrophic scars."

In the clinical trials for atrophic scars that Dr. Kilmer conducted, "the results were very impressive" for the arms, legs, abdomen or face. "We were able to plump up the skin so that the atrophic component was minimized. Normal pigmentation also returned," she observed. "And although we did encounter some hyperpigmentation, it resolved with hydroquinone. What is also impressive is that some depigmented scars were

repigmented following Fraxel re:pair treatment."



Suzanne Kilmer, M.D.
Director
Laser and Skin Surgery Center
of Northern California
Sacramento, CA

With one treatment for skin resurfacing, "we are obtaining better efficacy by increasing energies and densities," said Dr. Kilmer, an associate clinical professor of dermatology at the University of California, Davis. "You can also treat the neck much more aggressively than with traditional ablative resurfacing for better results. There is probably more significant tightening on the neck and face than with traditional CO₂. In short, the Fraxel re:pair laser is the first device I have used that truly approaches ablative laser resurfacing."

Two new surgical handpieces (incision and bulk) for the Fraxel re:pair laser are awaiting Food and Drug Administration approval. "The incisional handpiece is suitable for blepharoplasty, so the same laser can be used for both cutting and resurfacing," said Dr. Conn, whereas the bulk ablative handpiece will enable physicians to safely excise soft tissue.

Photos courtesy of Suzanne Kilmer, M.D.



Before Tx



Two weeks after Fraxel re:pair Tx