

ActiveFX from Lumenis

Improves Skin Tone, Texture and Tightening

BY BOB KRONEMYER, ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Max Murison, M.D.
Morrison Hospital
Swansea, United Kingdom

“This technique is associated with less redness and an average of only four days of healing.”

ActiveFX™ Fractional CO₂ resurfacing from Lumenis (Dreieich-Dreieichenhain, Germany) is a single treatment, minimal downtime procedure for dramatic improvement in skin tone, texture and laxity. Active FX energy is applied in a fractional way – that is, tiny columns of thermal damage that penetrate deep into the dermis are spaced so that tissue between each is spared – which results in faster healing.

ActiveFX differs from other aesthetic procedures employing fractional approaches because it uses CO₂ laser energy, which is considered by many the optimal treatment for photo-aged and environmentally damaged skin.

“You are able to see skin contraction while treating the patient,” said Robert Weiss, M.D., an associate professor of dermatology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. “The procedure can also be done with just topical anesthesia and patients notice nice results even after a single treatment.” A full-face treatment with the ActiveFX CO₂ laser takes between 20 and 30 minutes and does not require the use of any dyes. “I think the ideal candidate is someone with moderate-to-severe photo-aging, with wrinkles around the eyes or heavy lines on the upper lip,” he explained. “Patients who desire not only skin textural smoothing but actual skin tightening are also good candidates.”

A clinical trial of 15 patients found continuing improvement over three months following a single treatment. “Even after only two weeks, there was moderate improvement in wrinkles,” said Dr. Weiss, principal investigator, who considers ActiveFX a moderate-depth peel for treating both wrinkles and acne scarring. “You can see visible damage for a depth of about 300 microns.

And with heat shock protein (HSP), you can see changes down to 1 mm. Patients are red enough to stay indoors for roughly three to four days. But usually the redness is gone after the fifth day. Often, makeup can be applied on the third day, so this is a week-end peel.”

Dr. Weiss was skeptical at first about potential results. “Compared to what I expected from my experiences with a fractional device, results with ActiveFX in a single treatment have been excellent. One treatment with this laser is equivalent to five treatments of the technology that uses the blue dye.”

“The new superficial ActiveFX CO₂ peel results in earlier healing and effective treatment of fine wrinkles, pigmented patches and sun damage with softening of deeper lines,” said Max Murison, M.D., a consultant hand, plastic and laser surgeon at Morrision Hospital in Swansea, United Kingdom. “This technique is associated with less redness and an average of only four days of healing.”

In short, the ActiveFX CO₂ laser “is fractional technology that requires the fewest number of treatments to achieve the desired results. I’m pretty amazed after one session only. At the conservative energy settings we use, there has been a very nice balance between efficacy and safety. We have yet to encounter any adverse reactions. Results are also far better than with a chemical peel because you are penetrating deeper into the dermis and you notice much more skin tightening,” Dr. Weiss commented.