Dual Wavelength ProLipo PLUS Enhances Laser-Assisted Lipolysis

By Bob Kronemyer, Associate Editor

Practitioners can now offer a more effective laser-assisted lipolysis (LAL) treatment due to the dual wavelength – 1064 nm and 1319 nm of the ProLipo PLUS from Sciton, Inc. (Palo Alto, Calif.).

“There is no question that the 1319 nm wavelength emits more heat,” said Marc Salzman, M.D., an associate clinical professor of plastic surgery at the University of Louisville, who has conducted studies of different wavelengths using abdominoplasty specimens. “The 1319 nm wavelength goes through skin much more quickly than the 1064 nm wavelength, so you have to be more careful with it. But given the same amount of time and energy, the 1319 nm wavelength is more effective in sclerosing the tissue that surrounds the fat. There is more visible shrinkage of the stroma.”

According to Dr. Salzman, a plastic surgeon in Louisville, Ky., the ProLipo treatment with the ProLipo PLUS requires just one session. “I try to limit a session to two areas because each area takes me about one hour.” After placing the tumescent fluid, Dr. Salzman first treats with the 1064 nm wavelength, followed by evacuation with a syringe cannula system, then the 1319 nm wavelength to tighten the tissue between the fascia and the skin.

“I also think skin tightening is better with the addition of the 1319 nm wavelength, especially in the arms, the medial thighs and around the belly button. You’re adding much more heat.”

“Properly selected patients can expect results that are 85% to 90% of standard power-assisted liposuction with cannulas and general anesthesia,” noted Dr. Salzman. “I also think skin tightening is better with the addition of the 1319 nm wavelength, especially in the arms, the medial thighs and around the belly button. You’re adding much more heat. In fact, you can feel it with your hands.”

Starting two weeks after treatment, Dr. Salzman performs two to three sessions with the SkinTyte, a component of the broadband light (BBL) module of Sciton’s laser system, especially for the abdomen, arms and neck. The BBL module can also be used for hair removal, skin rejuvenation and acne.

With 30 watts of power at 1064 nm and 20 watts at 1319 nm, ProLipo PLUS is one of the most powerful laser-assisted lipolysis systems available. “The 1064 nm wavelength is very effective in treating small areas with small volumes, such as the chin, neck or a knee,” said Neil Goodman, M.D., Ph.D., who practices cosmetic surgery in New York City, N.Y. In contrast, “the 1319 nm wavelength “is primarily very good for tissue tightening. You will be hard-pressed to attain the same degree of skin tightening with more conventional forms of liposuction.”

Dr. Goodman, who uses traditional liposuction for larger body areas, followed immediately by ProLipo treatment to provide controlled, subcutaneous tissue heating, said that an internal laser is needed to perform treatments “to the fullest extent with the best cosmetic outcome.” Although both the 1064 nm and 1319 nm wavelengths help with skin tightening, the 1319 nm wavelength is particularly beneficial because “absorption of water is much higher, thus the energy put in is converted into heat at a more rapid rate.” With one ProLipo treatment, “results are permanent.”

“I like that the ProLipo treatment can be performed in the office without general anesthesia,” added Dr. Salzman. “Patients don’t perceive it as being an operative intervention. The ProLipo PLUS brings in a different patient base than we typically encounter. These patients assume that standard liposuction would be recommended by a plastic surgeon.”

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Photos courtesy of Marc Salzman, M.D.

38 year old female before Tx 38 year old female after ProLipo Tx

38 year old female after ProLipo Tx
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