

Gemini's Dual Capability Enhances Skin Rejuvenation Practices

By Bob Kronemyer, Associate Editor

Physicians are discovering that the dual-wavelength Gemini laser system from Laserscope (San Jose, Calif.) can really add value to their skin rejuvenation practice. The 532 nm KTP and 1064 nm Nd:YAG lasers can be used either individually or in combination. A large 10 mm spot size also adds to the Gemini's efficacy and efficiency.

"The Gemini is a highly versatile laser with over 20 FDA-approved indications," said William Baugh, M.D., an assistant clinical professor of dermatology at the University of California, Irvine. "The 532 and 1064 are precisely those wavelengths we use in photorejuvenation. The 10 mm spot size also allows me to complete an entire treatment at a much quicker rate. And my patients appreciate the shorter sessions." Furthermore, the large spot size "uses a photorecycling handpiece, which allows you to increase the amount of fluence delivered to the skin."



William Baugh, M.D.

"You achieve an overall evenness to the complexion. Patients comment that their skin now looks more consistent and even."

Perhaps more important, though, "is that the uniformity of treatment with a 10 mm spot size is increased," Dr. Baugh noted. "You achieve an overall evenness to the complexion that exceeds that of smaller spot sizes with similar devices. Patients comment that their skin now looks more consistent and even."

For Fitzpatrick skin types I – III, "results are excellent for pigmentation," Dr. Baugh said. "But there will be diffuse redness in the treatment areas, lasting between one and five days."

Nonetheless, patients are "really surprised how little discomfort there is and how fast the treatment takes. It is usually about two minutes per cheek,"

reported Robert Weiss, M.D., an assistant professor of dermatology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. "It appears that the Gemini achieves photorejuvenation faster than most of the intense pulsed light (IPL) devices. Patients are particularly pleased by how well it treats pigmentation. Most patients achieve 90% resolution within three sessions. And diffuse redness responds even faster, at 90% with two sessions. Other light-based devices may take a total of five sessions. Patients can also expect about a 50% improvement in fine lines within three sessions."

"The combination of the two wavelengths works better for overall rejuvenation because there is more improvement of wrinkles compared to using the 532 nm wavelength alone."

Rejuvenation sessions are scheduled once a month. Treatments are "tolerated extremely well because of a built in contact chiller. We also use cold gel," Dr. Weiss explained. "The discomfort can be characterized as a mild, prickly sensation." Dr. Weiss also noted that it has been shown that the combination of the two wavelengths "works better for overall rejuvenation because there is more improvement of wrinkles compared to using the 532 nm wavelength alone."



Robert Weiss, M.D.

The Gemini provides sufficient energy at a short pulse duration to achieve "excellent results on pigmented lesions," Dr. Weiss said. "There is also enhanced absorption of the green wavelength by hemoglobin for treating diffuse redness. Overall, we have been very favorably impressed with how well the Gemini has contributed to our photorejuvenation practice." ■