

Approval, New Indication May Expand Laser Field

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Contributing Writer

BOCA RATON, FLA. — A new light-emitting diode device awaiting approval and an expected expanded indication for a laser are poised to expand the dermatologic device armamentarium, Dr. Vic Narurkar said at the annual meeting of the Florida Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery.

"One of the most exciting technologies to come out this year is a dermal spectrophotometer, because it will be a way of determining the skin's erythema and melanin



In treating acne, a suction-based device can simultaneously address *P. acnes* bacteria and the sebaceous glands.

DR. NARURKAR

content," said Dr. Narurkar, a dermatologist in private practice in San Francisco.

This advance is needed because the Fitzgerald skin type classification is outdated, he explained. "Darker skin often gets lumped into the Fitzpatrick IV, V, and VI, when there are many variations within all of those skin types," he said.

A far better method is to have some type of computer model determine the pigmentation and redness, as well as the background pigmentation and redness.

Another reason for improving the current classification system is that coloring

Survey Shows Patient Satisfaction With Aesthetic Procedures

LAS VEGAS — A simple survey can provide physicians with a sense of patient satisfaction after cosmetic procedures, Dr. Jarl Bunæs said at an international symposium sponsored by the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

As the operator of the oldest facial plastic surgery clinic in Norway (Klinikk Bunæs in Sandvika), each year he performs approximately 1,500 surgical procedures. He sent a questionnaire that he designed to 100 consecutive patients who had undergone cosmetic procedures at least 1 year earlier. Of the 84 patients who responded, 62 (74%) were women; the mean age was 42 years (ranging from 18 to 68), said Dr. Bunæs.

Asked to rate their satisfaction with the procedure's results on a visual analog scale of 1-10 (with 10 being the best), patients reported a mean score of 8. They also rated their overall quality of life after the procedure as 8.

Seventy-one patients (84%) said the cosmetic problem that was treated had lowered their self-esteem before the procedure, and 71 patients said their self-esteem improved after treatment.

—Sherry Boschert

on the face and body may not match.

This LED device, manufactured by Palomar Medical Technologies Inc., is pending approval. The hope is that it will be released by summer's end, he said.

Photopneumatic laser therapy, another new device, manufactured by Aesthera Corp., has been cleared by the FDA for hair removal and skin rejuvenation. However, it is being used off label to treat acne and is in clinical trials for that indication.

The theory behind this device is very in-

triguing, in that it uses suction and lower wavelengths of light, explained Dr. Narurkar. "When we treat acne with lasers, we either try to destroy the *Propionibacterium acnes* bacteria with devices that are in the blue light wavelength, or we try to modify the sebaceous glands with devices that are in the red light wavelength," he said. A suction-based device can be brought closer to the skin and simultaneously is able to address both the *P. acnes* bacteria and the sebaceous glands. The

photopneumatic laser uses a lower band of light, which allows for better absorption.

"In our clinical study, we saw an immediate improvement in the inflammatory component of acne, and then more of a delayed effect in the reduction of new acne lesions," Dr. Narurkar explained. "The device is in clinical trials right now."

Dr. Narurkar is a member of the medical advisory board of Aesthera, and he performs clinical studies for Palomar Medical Technologies. ■



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