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IPL Enters Fourth Generation with Lumenis One

By Bob Kronemyer, Associate Editor

Beginning with a chance encounter over a decade ago and culminating in the Lumenis One, intense pulsed light (IPL) devices from Lumenis have been at the forefront of innovation and have converted many skeptics into true believers.

The first pulsed light product on the market, developed in 1995 by Lumenis (then ESC Medical Systems) with Mitchel Goldman, M.D., the Photoderm VL was designed to treat vascular lesions. "It took about two years of clinical testing," Dr. Goldman said. "With the development of multisequential pulsing and the quartz light guide, we were able to achieve good results on leg veins and vascular lesions."



Mitchel Goldman, M.D.

The second generation added versatility. Features such as high peak power and short pulses allowed the system to be used very effectively on pigmented lesions. Additional developments such as added filters, multiple heads, modified pulsing parameters and the addition of a Nd:YAG laser in 1998 made the system increasingly versatile and introduced hair removal and the treatment of deep vascular lesions. "We were able to treat hair just as well, if not better than anything else that was on the market at the time, which was mainly ruby, alexandrite and certain YAG lasers," recalls Michael Gold, M.D., one of the first investigators of IPL photoepilation.

The third generation brought simplicity, skin cooling and enhanced treatment speed. In 2000, Lumenis introduced the IPL Quantum SR and VascuLight S.

Versatile and easy to use, these systems ushered in the market explosion of photorejuvenation and "no downtime" anti-aging treatments. By this time, IPL had become core technology in most cosmetic laser practices. "There were a lot of IPL skeptics in the beginning," observed Dr. Gold, who was involved in most of the early VascuLight IPL studies. "But I think IPL has become a mainstay of what we do as aesthetic surgeons."

With the growing popularity of photorejuvenation, many pulsed light competitors entered the market. While many of these systems lack vital features such as multisequential pulsing, and the versatility afforded by complete parameter control, Lumenis One has broken through as a true fourth generation product.

Lumenis One optimizes and builds on the foundation that has come before it. This new design has features such as a Universal IPL treatment head with filters that slide easily in and out and are recognized by the system's advanced Windows XP-based software. With over 1500 presets, the ability to create custom presets, and a graphic patient database, this system facilitates optimum treatment for either a novice or experienced practitioner. A true innovation, the system offers advanced optimal pulse technology providing squared, equalized pulses and eliminating a peak of energy at the beginning of the pulse, thus allowing effective treatment at lower fluences. This, in combination with its highly conductive sapphire cooling, makes Lumenis One treatments the most gentle and effective IPL treatments. "After 13 years of development, the ideal IPL device that we originally conceived has come to fruition," proclaimed Dr. Goldman. ■