

Laser Treatments Can Ease Neck, Eyelid Laxity

Researchers have had success using the fractional CO₂ laser for neck rejuvenation and eyelid laxity.

Lori Brightman, M.D., of Laser & Skin Surgery Center of New York, and colleagues tested this treatment approach in separate studies. In a study of 13 patients aged 30-75 years, the researchers evaluated the treatment effect of the fractional CO₂ laser (Fraxel Re:pair, Rellant) on neck laxity, rhytids, and texture. In another study, Dr. Brightman's team examined the effects of treatment on eyelid laxity and other periorbital skin characteristics in 22 patients aged 30-75 years.

In the neck laxity study, laser treatment parameters included a 15 mm spot size, energy fluence of 50-70 J/cm², microthermal zones (MTZ) of 200/cm². Patients underwent two treatments and each consisted of two passes. Investigators followed patients for up to three months after the second treatment; four patients were followed for up to one year. Three blinded physician observers evaluated patients' before-and-after photographs.

They graded improvements using a five-point scale (0 = no improvement, 1 = 1-25% improvement, 2 = 25-50% improvement, 3 = 50-75% improvement, 4 = 75-100% improvement).

At follow-up, all patients had a 51% or greater improvement in rhytids (three had a 76 to 100% improvement), crepe-like skin (five had a 76-100% improvement), and degree of neck tightening (five had a 76-100% improvement), the investigators reported. All patients had a 76-100% improvement in the degree of pigmentation.

With respect to adverse events, no patient experienced scarring or hyper- or hypopigmentation. The absence of delay hypopigmentation is an important distinction from traditionally fully ablative lasers. All subjects had post-treatment erythema and edema, these problems resolved within 5-14 days in all cases.

In the eyelid laxity study, each patient underwent two procedures, each

consisting of two passes. Laser treatment parameters consisted of a 15 mm spot size, energy fluences ranging from 20-50 J/cm² and MTZ of 60-100/cm². Dr. Brightman pointed out that these parameters were used with an investigational laser, not the currently available model. She and her col-

leagues now treat eyelids with two passes using a 7.5 mm spot size and 20-30 J/cm² energy fluences.

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ers using the same five-point scale evaluated improvements in skin laxity, crepe-like skin, rhytids, and pigmentation. All patients showed a 76-100% improvement skin laxity, crepe-like skin, and pigmentation, and all had at least a 51% improvement in rhytids. The researchers reported that they did not observe any adverse effects except for erythema and mild edema, which resolved within five to 14 days.

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