

Sciton's ProFractional Reduces Downtime and Discomfort

By Bob Kronemyer, Associate Editor



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Sciton, Inc.'s (Palo Alto, California, U.S.), ProFractional is a scanned erbium:YAG fractional laser used to dramatically improve wrinkles, acne scars and skin texture, with minimal downtime and discomfort. "The main difference between ProFractional and other fractional technologies is the scanned erbium:YAG laser," said James Koch, M.D., a facial plastic surgeon in private group practice in Palo Alto. "The ProFractional produces tiny channels of ablation without a surrounding zone of thermal necrosis as compared to other fractionated devices. This translates into less downtime, quicker healing and a treatment that appears to be less painful."

ProFractional also allows a physician to treat a larger percentage of the face on a single pass, thus requiring fewer overall sessions. "I usually only do one or two sessions, but we prefer a longer series because of the cumulative effect," Dr. Koch noted. A typical full-face treatment session lasts about 20 minutes. "I don't think there is a better laser treatment modality for improvement of skin texture," he said.

In thinner skinned individuals, Dr. Koch commonly treats at a depth between 200 and 300 microns, whereas in thicker skinned patients the depth is 400 microns.

Dr. Koch has successfully treated the neck and chest with ProFractional, according to a paper he co-authored on acne scarring. Patients end up with "a sunburn type sensation for a couple of hours; however, they usually do not need pain pills. The next day, there is slight flaking but patients can immediately return to work." Moreover, for acne scars, he likes to combine the ProFractional with the MicroLaserPeel (MLP) during the same session. "First, I perform a MicroLaserPeel, followed by ProFractional," he said. Combining the two procedures takes about 30

minutes, with about three days of downtime.

For those who already possess the Profile system, the ProFractional "is a simple modular upgrade," said Michael Gold, M.D., a dermatologist in private practice in Nashville, Tennessee, U.S. "Compared to other erbiums and fractionalized systems I have used, the ProFractional is producing results I have never seen. Overall, I think Sciton does an exceptional job with technology. For example, the ProFractional allows you to adjust settings for individual treatments."

At Dr. Gold's practice, the number of treatment sessions with the ProFractional is normally one or two, versus four to six with competing fractionalized systems. "Downtime is usually two to three days, and up to four days if you treat aggressively," he said. Results after two sessions (three weeks apart) "are as close to a resurfacing/tightening/face-lift procedure that I've seen."

Dr. Gold, who is co-author of a paper on facial rejuvenation with the ProFractional, noted that the minimally invasive rejuvenation market is no longer limited to full-face laser resurfacing. "Within one Sciton box, many types of technology can be incorporated," he said. Occasionally, Dr. Gold combines the ProFractional with the MLP. "The ProFractional may be used for treating three-quarters of the face, then the MLP is scheduled on a different day for treatment around the eyes and mouth," he explained.

According to Dr. Gold, the ProFractional "works really well for fine lines and wrinkles. You can also treat acne scars exceptionally well." Melasma also improves markedly. In particular, Dr. Gold has had success treating melasma and acne scarring in type IV Asian and Hispanic skin with the ProFractional and topical agents.