

Sciton Contour TRL Resurfacing Appeals to Potential Face-Lift Patients

By Kevin A. Wilson, Contributing Editor



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Using the comprehensive facial resurfacing capabilities of the Contour TRL Er:YAG laser from Sciton, Inc. (Palo Alto, California, U.S.), physicians are moving with the trend toward less invasive, non-surgical procedures while still providing a profound visible result. This versatile device treats within a range of ablation depths in addition to offering a deeper, full thermal coagulation effect in fractional mode, making it ideal for tightening and resurfacing applications.

Plastic surgeon Ludger Meyer, M.D., Ph.D., medical director of Villa Bella clinic in Munich, Germany, explained the procedure as a step beyond traditional ablative resurfacing because it is gentler with the Er:YAG laser, but features the additional coagulation effect which, together, lead to remarkable results and patient satisfaction. “With ablation of the first two layers of skin, plus coagulation to further induce tightening, we’re not only aiming for the two-dimensional surface tightening, but a fuller result,” he said. “The planar ablation between 50 μ and 200 μ , with re-epithelialization within eight to ten days, leads to more youthful skin. The fractional mode goes deeper, reaching between 200 μ and 400 μ to the middle and lower third of the dermis where the fibroblast population is more concentrated, in a more dose-specific vulneration to kick fibroblasts into high gear and remodel this layer for a more three-dimensional effect.”

According to Dr. Meyer, less aggressive procedures and lasers are typically associated with dermatology practices, which is changing slowly, and procedures such as facial remodeling with Sciton’s Contour TRL are bridging the gap. “For those patients who are looking for a subtler correction through non-invasive or minimally invasive means, this is what they expect,” he said. “Similarly, when a patient comes to a plastic surgeon they’re availing themselves to procedures that are more aggressive. There is a large difference between the surgical approach and the less invasive approach; the goals are different. The Contour TRL procedure is still very aggressive, and though it is not a surgical face-lift the outcomes we achieve give us high patient

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Before and four weeks after Contour TRL treatment

Photos courtesy of Ludger Meyer, M.D., Ph.D.

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“When you compare before and after pictures with this procedure, the results are dramatic,” Dr. Meyer continued. “Patients return to our facility in three or more months when the superficial and internal remodeling processes have had more time to develop, and they are stunned.”

“The trend toward less invasive non-surgical procedures, which inherently carry less risk, less downtime, less financial expense and more conveniently fit into a patient’s busy lifestyle, is undeniable,” said Dr. Meyer. “Patients are seeking treatment earlier, when the wrinkling and laxity is much less advanced. Also, our patient base is expanding because so many more patients are willing to experience non-surgical correction rather than accept the risks associated with surgery. I look at it like an iceberg. The tip, which is visible, are patients wanting surgery, but the significantly larger portion under the water is the potential patient base willing to undergo a less invasive procedure. Contour TRL allows us to access this larger portion.”