

# GentleWaves Rescues Patients from Post-Procedure Inflammation

BY BOB KRONEMYER, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

GentleWaves from Light BioScience, LLC (Virginia Beach, Va.) is not only growing in popularity as a skin rejuvenation device that stimulates collagen, but the anti-inflammatory characteristics of the system are becoming a key asset when used in combination with today's more aggressive light- and energy-based treatments.

"We use GentleWaves immediately after most ablative or non-ablative treatments," said Roy Geronemus, M.D., director of the Laser & Skin Surgery Center of New York, in New York City. One of his favorite combinations is GentleWaves with the Fraxel SR Laser from Reliant Technologies (Palo Alto, Calif.), for which he typically schedules three to six sessions. "GentleWaves helps to reduce redness and swelling," Dr. Geronemus noted. "Our clinical observation is that GentleWaves also appears to reduce downtime. By having fewer post treatment concerns and a better response, patient acceptance definitely increases. We think GentleWaves is an important component of any type of procedure that creates a response from the skin."

"We find that when we use GentleWaves in combination with intense pulsed light (IPL) we attain a better collagen response or faster skin smoothing," conveyed Robert Weiss, M.D., an associate professor of dermatology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore. "There is also decreased redness after treatment."

Like Dr. Geronemus, Dr. Weiss applies GentleWaves immediately after treatment. He also noted that some of his patients continue GentleWaves after completing a series of IPL sessions as a way to enhance outcomes. These additional five or six GentleWaves sessions are normally spaced one week apart.

The StarLux light pulsed system from Palomar Medical Technologies, Inc. (Burlington, Mass.) is probably the most popular IPL device currently used by Dr. Weiss. He also achieves fewer side effects when GentleWaves is combined with the microlaser peel component of the multi-modular Profile from Sciton, Inc. (Palo Alto, Calif.). "It is important to use GentleWaves with a microlaser peel for reduced healing, as well as to reduce the redness more quickly," Dr. Weiss said.

Dr. Weiss is a strong believer that GentleWaves is an integral part of the patient's skin recovery process.

"We've had patients receive IPL treatments with and without GentleWaves," he said. "Without question, patients who have had the combined protocol report fewer side effects and request that we continue to use GentleWaves during the entire session."

David Vasily, M.D., a dermatologist in private practice in Bethlehem, Pa., uses GentleWaves in combination with the Portrait plasma skin rejuvenation (PSR) system from Rhytec, Inc. (Waltham, Mass.). "We use



GentleWaves immediately post-op to reduce burning and stinging," he said. "GentleWaves is remarkably effective. Patients notice an immediate reduction in burning and discomfort."

In addition, Dr. Vasily recommends daily treatment with GentleWaves during the first five days of the healing process because of its anti-inflammatory effects to accelerate healing and reduce patient discomfort. "In particular, I feel GentleWaves significantly shortens the course of post-op erythema. Typically, by day six, patients are doing great and can wear makeup," he said. "We also tend to start patients on GentleWaves at least a few weeks before their first PSR treatment because we feel we achieve an enhanced response. GentleWaves is a welcome addition to that procedure."

With a return to more aggressive laser and other light-based treatments for better outcomes, GentleWaves is a valuable adjunct therapy that increases patient acceptance and accelerates post treatment recovery. ■