

DermaSweep MD Delivers Three Levels of Abrasion

BY BOB KRONEMYER, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The DermaSweep MD from DermaSweep (Rocklin, Calif.) is a multi-level skin resurfacing system that offers three levels of abrasion: microdermabrasion, Epi-Infused microdermabrasion and hydro-assisted dermabrasion.

"This device gives a physician a lot of control and options for resurfacing the skin," said James Newman, M.D., a facial plastic surgeon in private practice in San Mateo, Calif. For instance, the hydro-assisted dermabrasion uses a dermabrasion technique that remains in a closed system. "There is no contamination of the treatment room environment," Dr. Newman said. "The saline mixed with the abrasive forces is all suctioned out, back through the same tubing." The DermaSweep MD also features a variety of interchangeable tips for the sterilizable handpiece.

The main advantage of the microdermabrasion component is a particle-free system, whereas Epi-Infused microdermabrasion "is a nice adjunct, after the patient has been exfoliated with the standard microdermabrasion bristles," Dr. Newman explained. "A different handpiece can be applied to the skin, which draws in a liquid medium to the skin." Coupled with suction and abrasion, this level of treatment promotes absorption of one of three infusion products: hydrating serum, salicylic acid concentration (acne prone skin), and antioxidant solution with vitamin C.

"Epi-Infused microdermabrasion provides a more hydrating environment to the patient and is a great

"A different handpiece can be applied to the skin, which draws in a liquid medium to the skin."

way to finish off a standard microdermabrasion," Dr. Newman said. "It is more comforting to the patient."

Hydro-assisted dermabrasion is the most aggressive of the three levels of treatment and "is most comparable to other resurfacing procedures, such as erbium or CO₂ lasers," said Dr. Newman, a volunteer assistant professor of facial plastic surgery at Stanford University. "These patients require regional nerve blocks or other levels of

anesthesia because we are completely removing the stratum corneum and the epidermis." Hydro-assisted therapy most commonly targets the perioral region for moderate to severe lines around the mouth, as well as over the cheek and temple areas for moderate to severe acne scars.

Treatment with hydro-assisted dermabrasion is usually limited to one session, but can then be repeated perhaps every other year, as needed.

For the first two levels of treatment, Dr. Newman recommends a series of six sessions at about three week intervals. Standard microdermabrasion is performed at

Hydro-assisted therapy most commonly targets the perioral region for moderate to severe lines around the mouth, as well as over the cheek and temple areas for moderate to severe acne scars.

every session, and Epi-Infusion microdermabrasion during every other session. "There is no pain associated with treatment at these two levels," Dr. Newman observed. "It is very soothing to the skin. Patients do not have the sensation of sharpness, like they can with other particle dermabrader devices."

In a group of five patients treated with hydro-assisted microdermabrasion, three different treatment tips were evaluated for aggressiveness. "We assessed which stainless steel tip would work best in a particular region of the skin," Dr. Newman said. One tip was an ultra-fine bristle, another was a medium bristle, and the third a very coarse bristle. "Results showed that the coarse treatment tip worked best for acne skin, particularly over the cheeks," Dr. Newman said. "However, the medium bristle tip worked best for moderate to severe perioral wrinkles. The fine tip worked best in the crow's feet area and the periocular region. Therefore, one can potentially use all three tips on the same patient, depending on the skin thickness and the pathology being treated." ■