Treatment of Facial Rhytides and Laxity with Radio Frequency

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INTRODUCTION

Facial rhytides, or wrinkles, have been demonstrated to respond to treatment with a variety of laser and light based devices that deliver controlled amounts of energy to the skin. Recently a device utilizing radio frequency (RF) energy has become available (INFINI, Lutronic, Inc., Fremont, CA) that is capable of delivering specific and highly controlled amounts of RF energy into the skin, producing remarkable cosmetic results not only in facial wrinkles but also in reducing skin laxity that occurs with aging. This case study report describes one such case in my practice that demonstrates the type of results that can be achieved.

PATIENT DETAILS

This patient presented as a 50 y/o female with fair, type II skin and early signs of wrinkles on the cheek and notable signs of laxity in the skin of the lateral neck. She had done neurotoxins, dermal fillers, chemical peels, and Thermage (2010) in the past.

DEVICE DESCRIPTION

The INFINI device delivers bipolar RF energy through an array of 200 micron diameter microneedles at a frequency of 1 MHz to create thermal coagulative effects in the dermis of the skin while sparing the epidermis from undesired side effects. The power is adjusted in steps from setting 1 (2.5W) to a maximum of 20 (50W), and the duration of each exposure is selectable from 10 ms to 1000 ms. A disposable tip contains the microneedles in array of either 49 (7 x 7) or 16 (4 x 4) that penetrate into the skin at depths adjustable from 0.5 to 3.5 mm.

PROTOCOLS

Topical anesthesia was applied prior to treatment consisting of Lidocaine 23% / Tetracaine 7% ointment to the face, and EMAx to the neck for approximately one hour. Anesthesia was then carefully removed using alcohol wipes and the skin cleansed with Hibicleans® to reduce risk of infection. Treatment was initiated using the INFINI 49 tip at a power setting of 4, duration of 140 ms, and needle depth of 3.0 mm to treat her cheeks, lip lines and upper neck. A single pass was made with minimal overlap to cover the entire intended treatment area. The settings were then adjusted, keeping a power of 4 and duration of 140 ms, but changing the depth of the microneedles to 2.25 mm for treatment over the full face, and the lateral neck. The lower face and the full neck were then treated keeping power and duration settings the same, but reducing the depth even shallower to 1.5 mm.
Post treatment TNS recovery complex and clindamycin 1% gel was applied. And the patient was seen again at two months following treatment.

RESULTS

The photographs below show this patient before treatment and two months following her single treatment with the INFINI system.

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<tr>
<th>Date Taken: 1/20/14</th>
<th>Date Taken: 3/10/14</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before INFINI Treatment</td>
<td>Two Months After a Single INFINI Treatment</td>
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CONCLUSIONS

The INFINI treatment administered to this patient produced a noticeable improvement in the appearance of her facial wrinkles, and significantly improved the laxity and horizontal wrinkles in the skin of her neck.

PHYSICIAN COMMENTS

“This patient is an attractive 50 year old, who has kept up with fillers, peels, and neuromodulators but had some mild laxity that she wanted improvement with. With only one treatment, small but significant changes were created in the jawline, submental area, and neck”

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PATIENT COMMENTS

“I really noticed the improvements with the INFINI. I have a friend coming with me to get an INFINI treatment when I come back.”
PHYSICIAN CONSENT

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I certify that I have obtained the necessary patient consent to share the images included in this case study with Lutronic and understand that these images will be used in Lutronic marketing and education materials. The patients’ rights to privacy will always be protected and eyes will be blocked (as necessary) to ensure this privacy.

Signed: __Signature On File___________

Steven F. Weiner, MD