

MedLite C6 PhotoAcoustic Therapy Improves Acne Scars

By Bob Kronemyer, Associate Editor



Emil Tanghetti, M.D.
Clinical Professor of Cosmetic Dermatology
UC Davis Medical Center
Center for Dermatology and Laser Surgery
Sacramento, CA

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Acne scars can now be significantly improved with the versatile MedLite C6 electro-optic (EO) Q-switched Nd:YAG laser from HOYA ConBio (Fremont, Calif.). "This is simple and rapid treatment providing efficacy with no downtime," said Paul Frank, M.D., a dermatologist in private practice in Manhattan, N.Y. "In the past, we had to use very aggressive techniques to make improvements."

Dr. Frank uses the MedLite C6 laser to treat all types of surgical and acne scars, including ice pick scars. "These are scars that fillers do not traditionally improve." In addition, most of his patients cannot tolerate, or prefer not to undergo procedures involving significant downtime. "There is only redness for the afternoon with the MedLite laser," Dr. Frank noted.

Proprietary PhotoAcoustic technology is the hallmark of this new generation of Q-switched engineering pioneered by HOYA ConBio. An electro-optic Q-switch acts as a high-speed shutter, enabling the laser to produce peak power output of 200 megawatts in 5 to 20 nanosecond pulse widths. By storing energy between pulses, the EO Q-switch achieves a shorter, more effective pulse output. The peak energy is dispersed through the epidermis faster than the relaxation time of the healthy tissue, thus limiting exposure to thermal build-up for safe, fast and effective treatments.

"PhotoAcoustic technology maximizes the way the energy is delivered into the skin," said Dr. Frank, a clinical assistant professor at New York University Medical Center (New York City, N.Y.). For acne scars, patients schedule four to six treatments, spaced two to three weeks apart. Most patients achieve a 40% to 60% improvement, "which is a dramatic improvement for non-ablative treatment. Treatment is also less uncomfortable than hair removal," Dr. Frank added. An average session

lasts five to ten minutes. Furthermore, the MedLite C6 laser "is more cost-effective than other treatments." The MedLite is also the treatment of choice for people with darker skin types V and VI."

Apart from treating acne scars with the MedLite C6 laser, Dr. Frank also uses the laser for tattoo removal, sun spots, solar lentigines, fine lines and wrinkles.

"The MedLite is already a very accomplished device for tattoo removal," concurred Emil Tanghetti, M.D., a clinical professor of cosmetic dermatology at the University of California, Davis (Davis, Calif.). "We also see improvement with acne. Moreover, when we treated these patients for acne, we noticed incidentally that their acne scars improved as well. When you treat an entire area with the MedLite, it heals as a unit. In doing so, we have the ability to treat slightly deeper with the Nd:YAG laser. This dermal treatment leads to a response that results in scar tightening and remodeling."

Dr. Tanghetti has treated both smaller pitted scars and gradually depressed scars with the MedLite C6 laser. Patients schedule about three sessions at one month intervals. "Nearly all patients achieve between a 30% to 40% improvement. Patients are happy. Treatment is relatively painless and easy to perform." Overall, the MedLite C6 laser "is a workhorse that we use for tattoos and lentigines," Dr. Tanghetti added. "Acne treatment just adds to the laser's versatility."

Earlier this year, HOYA ConBio debuted the RevLite laser, a next-generation platform built on the reliable MedLite C Series foundation. RevLite incorporates PhotoAcoustic Therapy Pulse technology to deliver 60% more power in narrow pulse widths at all spot sizes.