

Alma Lasers Unveils Faster Delivery Options for Fractional Resurfacing

By Kevin A. Wilson, Contributing Editor

Alma Lasers (Buffalo Grove, Ill.) has expanded its fractional resurfacing offerings to include a unique, new technology that delivers more precision while dramatically reducing treatment time. Recently introduced at the *American Academy of Dermatology (AAD)* and *American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery (ASLMS)* meetings, the iPixel^{CO₂} and iPixel^{Er} add additional capabilities to the Pixel CO₂ and Harmony^{XL} platforms.



Michael H. Gold, M.D.
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According to Michael H. Gold, M.D., dermatologist and director of Gold Skin Care Center and Tennessee Clinical Research Center (Nashville, Tenn.), the concept behind the iPixel technology is easy to grasp. "These advanced technology handpieces are connected to a roller for ease of delivery. The advantage is that you can go exceptionally fast. There is a short learning curve, but for a skilled, experienced user this means less than five minutes for a full-face, no exaggeration."

With the iPixel^{CO₂}, laser pulses are triggered as the treatment tip is rolled across the skin, regardless of the speed at which the handpiece is moved. Both iPixel^{CO₂} and iPixel^{Er} modules accurately and consistently deliver a single row of seven pixels (ablative microwounds) per millimeter moved. The user can easily see where they've been with the pixel patterns left by each pass of the ablative laser. Additional passes may be made at the physician's discretion, as long as care is taken not to overtreat.

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"Ultimately this new technology is used for the same indications that CO₂ or erbium lasers would normally treat, such as fine lines, pigmentation or acne scars, but in much less time than we've come to expect," Dr. Gold noted. "The results a skilled user might obtain with these devices should increase patient satisfaction."

Drastically reduced treatment times are a real boon to the physician. "The physician user definitely wants

to go faster if results are equivalent," Dr. Gold explained. "For one thing, it takes less time, which has obvious business benefits by making you more efficient; aesthetic procedures such as this are often important profit centers. Fatigue may be minimized as well because you're doing in five minutes what might have taken 45 minutes or more in the past." Additionally, there are no required consumable costs and it is available as an upgrade to existing Alma equipment.

iPixel's remarkable speed does bring with it a particular challenge, added Dr. Gold. "Patient education is very important with these roller handpieces because if you are finished in a few minutes, they may wonder how much treatment they've actually received. Many of these individuals have been treated in the past and they may be expecting to spend an hour or more in treatment, so it is helpful to explain that the treatment will be comparatively short, but still effective."



Before Tx
Photos courtesy of Michael H. Gold, M.D.



After iPixel^{CO₂} Tx