

Accent Employs Unique Dual RF Design for Body Contouring

BY BOB KRONEMYER, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Practitioners are able to treat both deeper cellulite and more superficial cellulite with the Accent from Alma Lasers, Inc. (Fla., U.S.), thanks to separate unipolar and bipolar radiofrequency (RF) treatment heads. Patients also notice weight reduction after a series of treatments. The product is FDA 510k pending.

“Of the non-invasive techniques, the Accent is the most thrilling because it treats the skin and fat,” said Ilan Karavani, M.D., a dermatologist in private practice in Antwerp, Belgium. “The Accent also requires fewer treatment sessions. You can see a visual effect.

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Deeper areas of the skin with fat are able to be heated. Heating the skin also results in contraction and improvement in skin tightening. Basically, you can heat everything that contains water.”

The constant movement of the RF energy and the center of the electromagnetic field below the epidermis in addition to cooled handpieces prevents burning the

skin. “The Accent slowly increases the temperature of the targeted area. You have better control over what you are doing,” said Dr. Karavani. “The best candidates for treatment are those with high water content in the fat. My most popular indications to treat are hips, bellies and saddlebags.”



Accent by Alma Lasers, Inc.

It takes about 20 minutes to heat up both sides of a region with the Accent. “Over the following few days, patients feel the fat reducing and the skin tightening,” Dr. Karavani noted. A second session is scheduled two weeks after the first treatment. There are a total of three to six sessions, spaced two to four weeks apart. “Patients can expect a reduction in volume, improvement in skin texture and improvement of cellulite,” Dr.

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Karavani said. “Most patients comment that treatment is comfortably warm. You can easily reach 39° C to 41° C, with a very comfortable level of pain. But the higher the temperature, the better the results. Some patients feel comfortable up to 45° C.”



Bipolar handpiece

Unipolar handpiece

Dr. Karavani believes that the Accent is the best device in the non-invasive sector because it treats fat and skin at the same time. “We are currently conducting studies in augmenting the water content of the fat by injecting the fat with saline fluid before treatment,” said Dr. Karavani, a consultant in dermatologic surgery at the University of Antwerp. “This should

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improve results because of the higher water content and a more substantial heating. We should also achieve more melting of the fat. If this technique works well, we will eliminate the need for liposuction, so we can use the Accent alone.”

“The cellulite market is a potentially booming market that has been untapped now for 20 years of laser and laser-like treatments,” said David Goldberg, M.D., a clinical professor of dermatology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. “Because the Accent has both a unipolar and bipolar head, we can



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deliver heat at various depths. Cellulite, by its very nature, varies in depth. Some cellulite is deeper, while some cellulite is more superficial. The Accent is able to treat different depths of cellulite in a fairly consistent manner, from patient to patient.”

Dr. Goldberg uses the unipolar head to treat cellulite and fat reduction on the hips, buttocks, abdomen and arms. “We’re also able to tighten the face with the bipolar head,” he said. “With bipolar RF, the heat transfers from one side of the handpiece to the other, so treatment is superficial. But with unipolar RF, you have only one side of the handpiece, so heat penetrates much deeper into the fat.” The large handpiece of the Accent also “treats very large areas quickly.”

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Fairly significant data from Europe indicates that the Accent “improves cellulite appearance,” Dr. Goldberg said. “But a certain number of patients have also experienced weight reduction.”

Dr. Goldberg is part of an ongoing clinical study of the Accent that is evaluating changes under MRI and changes in blood lipids. Almost all of the 30 patients are being treated for cellulite or fat during three sessions, one month apart. “We finally have technology that clearly is making a difference. There is no question that clinically these patients improve. I believe RF is the best technology we currently have for cellulite reduction.” ■



Before Tx

After Accent Tx

Photos courtesy of Emilia del Pino, M.D. and Ramon Rosado, M.D.