

# Combo Device Effective for Treatment of Acne

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ATLANTA — A new device that combines pulsed light and radiofrequency energy is proving highly effective for the treatment of acne vulgaris, Dr. Neil Sadick reported at the joint annual meeting of the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery and the American College of Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology.

In 32 patients with moderate acne who were treated twice a week for 4 weeks, the combined use of optical and conducted bipolar radiofrequency energy reduced the average lesion count by 47%. Of pa-



Patient is shown at baseline and after 1 month of twice weekly treatments.

## Excimer Laser Plus Minigraft Useful in Vitiligo

LONDON — Excimer laser treatment with minigrafting offers a new approach to repigmentation in vitiligo, according to Dr. Ludmila Nieuweboer-Krobotova of the Netherlands Institute for Pigment Disorders, University of Amsterdam.

The excimer laser has been used alone and in conjunction with topical therapies including tacrolimus and 8-methoxypsoralen. In the first preliminary study using this 308-nm laser with minigrafting in 20 patients with stable vitiligo, nine patients (45%) had 75%-99% repigmentation after 3 months, Dr. Nieuweboer-Krobotova reported in a poster session at the 14th Congress of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology.

Minigrafting was performed using 1.5-mm full-thickness punch grafts that were removed from a normally pigmented donor site. Grafted areas then were irradiated with the excimer laser twice weekly for 3 months.

The beginnings of repigmentation were visible after only 2 weeks, which is earlier than when narrowband UVB is used after minigrafting. At 3 months, three patients had 51%-74% repigmentation, four had 25%-50%, and four had 0%-24%.

—Nancy Walsh

tients surveyed, 59% rated overall improvement as good, 32% rated it as very good, and 4.5% rated it as excellent. Another 4.5% had mild or no improvement, said Dr. Sadick, clinical professor of dermatology at Cornell University, New York.

Biopsies were performed on four of the patients prior to treatment, 1 week after the initial treatment, and 1 month after the initial treatment. Compared with the baseline biopsy, the last biopsy showed a lower percentage of follicles with perifolliculitis (58%

vs. 33%, respectively) and a reduction in the size of sebaceous glands (0.092 mm<sup>2</sup> vs. 0.07 mm<sup>2</sup>, respectively). Heat shock protein 70 and procollagen-1 appeared unaffected.

The patients were treated using the Aurora AC device (Syneron Inc., Richmond Hill, Ont.). Those with Fitzpatrick skin types I-IV were treated with pulsed light of 8-10 J/cm<sup>2</sup>, and those with type V-VI were treated with pulsed light of 6-8 J/cm<sup>2</sup>. Radiofrequency of 15-20 J/cm<sup>3</sup> was used in all patients.

The combined use of optical energy and conducted bipolar radiofrequency current affects *Propionibacterium acnes* directly by photochemical activation of porphyrins, and by selective hyperthermia of the sebaceous glands. The radiofrequency energy supplements the optical energy and raises the temperature of the sebaceous glands, severely damaging the bacteria, Dr. Sadick explained.

Dr. Sadick is a research consultant for Syneron Inc. ■

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Reference: 1. NDC Health prescription data.



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