

Sciton's Contour TRL Emulates Entire Spectrum of Ablative Modalities

By Bob Kronemyer, Associate Editor



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Sciton, Inc.'s (Palo Alto, Calif.), new Contour TRL (Tunable Resurfacing Laser) is a significant improvement to the dual-pulse mode erbium laser, with the ability to precisely adjust ablative depth and thermal coagulation depth to emulate any ablative laser on the market.

According to Dale Koop, Ph.D., general manager at Sciton, "The ablative zone can be adjusted with each pulse, making the Contour TRL equivalent to anything from an erbium:YAG laser to an erbium:YSGG laser to a CO₂ laser. This is the first laser system to offer precise and independent control of ablation depth and the thermal zone." The Contour TRL achieves roughly from 4 to 200 microns of clean vaporization, while at the same time 0 to over 125 microns of coagulation in a single pass. "You can independently control each of these two variables," Dr. Koop said. The laser system also features a weightless computer-guided scanner for uniform and consistent application of a flat-top beam.

"Because the Contour TRL can emulate anything from a pure erbium laser to a CO₂ laser – and anything in between – it eliminates the need for existing single modality lasers," Dr. Koop stated. The TRL can be used to leave any desired level of coagulum covering the resurfaced skin, and enough of a thermal zone to affect collagen remodeling or skin contraction.

Sciton developed the Contour TRL mostly in response to limitations of non-ablative procedures. "Although non-ablative procedures have been, and still are, extremely popular, patients often do not achieve the results they expect, or they like their results but want more," Dr. Koop said. "We have seen a resurgence among physicians who want greater results with less downtime. Being able to adjust the thermal zones and vaporization zones precisely with the Contour TRL will offer physicians the

ability to provide their patients better results with minimal downtime."

In the late 1990s the Contour (a dual-pulse erbium laser) replaced standard erbium lasers, giving physicians the ability to move beyond superficial peels with the popular MicroLaserPeel (Sciton). However, for resurfacing, physicians were limited to four discreet levels of thermal zone. "But with the TRL, we can fine tune to anything in between, and even go beyond that," Dr. Koop explained.

Dr. Koop noted that physicians can now personalize a procedure to each patient's expectation and desired amount of downtime. "Most patients do not want CO₂ because it is so drastic and there is a risk of hypopigmentation," he said. "On the other hand, erbium is very superficial, so patients may want something in between. The Contour TRL creates an infinite number of laser modalities that never existed before." Options such as intense pulsed light (IPL) or fractional can be added to the Contour TRL system.

For complete resurfacing and fractional applications, the ProFractional module can also be added to most systems with a Contour or Contour TRL. Furthermore, by adding broadband light (BBL) and the SkinTyte accessory for skin tightening, "physicians can offer their patients unique combinations all with one system," Dr. Koop said.

Current users of the configurable Profile platform, with the Contour module, can easily upgrade to the TRL module. "Users will now have access to the entire spectrum of ablative laser modalities – from erbium to CO₂ – for application tailored treatments," Dr. Koop said. "Users will also be able to offer popular treatments such as MicroLaserPeel, the S.T.A.R. procedure, the Lamellar Peel, Arctic Peel and additional advanced peel methods that will be announced soon."