Treating Crepiness on the Cheek Using Radio Frequency Energy

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INTRODUCTION

Though many types of facial wrinkles respond well to therapies such as injectable fillers, chemical peels, and some types of lasers, the fine lines associated with skin crepiness can present a different challenge. Many patients cannot afford the down time associated with the more traditional laser ablative process used to treat crepiness. With these patients in mind, I have recently begun offering in my practice a treatment using controlled radio frequency (RF) energy (INFINI, Lutronic, Inc., Fremont, CA) that is delivered into the skin through arrays of microneedles that can produce good cosmetic results for facial skin crepiness. This case study report describes one such case in my practice that demonstrates the type of results that I have achieved.

DEVICE DESCRIPTION

The INFINI device delivers bipolar RF energy through a disposable tip of 200 micron diameter microneedles that are arranged in a 7 X 7 array (49 microneedles) that penetrate up to 3.5 mm into the skin to create thermal coagulative effects in the dermis while sparing the epidermis from undesired damage. The RF energy can be adjusted from power setting 1 (2.5 W) to a maximum of setting 20 (50 W) with an exposure time that is selectable from 10 ms to 1 second.

PATIENT DETAILS

This patient presented as a 48 y/o female with type III skin seeking treatment for moderate wrinkles and in particular crepiness on the cheeks, lower face and neck. She received two treatments with the INFINI system spaced five months apart, the long interval being due to another unrelated medical condition.

TREATMENT PROTOCOL

Prior to the INFINI treatments, we removed make up, cleansed with alcohol wipes and applied a topical anesthesia cream consisting of 20% Benzocaine, 8% Lidocaine and 4% Tetracaine (BLT) for 30 minutes. The anesthetic cream was removed with dry gauze, and then the entire face was double-cleansed with an Obagi® foaming facial cleanser and alcohol prep. Her first treatment session consisted of one pass on the forehead and neck using a power setting of 5, exposure time of 140ms and a microneedle depth of 1.5mm; and then two passes to the cheeks and lower face, the first pass at treatment power setting 6, 180 ms, depth 2.5 mm, and then the second pass at power 5, 140ms, 2.25mm. For her second treatment session five months later, she received two passes on the forehead at a setting of 8/100ms/0.5mm; and then three passes to the lower face, cheeks and jawline starting with settings of 8/180ms/1.5mm, and then decreasing to 7/160ms/1.0mm and 6/140ms/0.5mm for the second and third passes, respectively.
Following treatment, the face was gently cleaned, but no other skin care products or medications were required. Mild erythema was seen initially but resolved by 24 hours.

**RESULTS**

The photographs below show this patient before treatment and the results seen eight months after her second INFINI treatment.

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<tr>
<th>Date Taken: 8/12/2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Before INFINI Treatment" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Eight Months After Two INFINI Treatments" /></td>
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**CONCLUSIONS**

A noticeable, long lasting improvement in the appearance of this patient’s facial crepiness was demonstrated following two INFINI treatments.

**PHYSICIAN COMMENTS**

“The INFINI treatments produced a very desirable result in the appearance of my patient’s crepiness on the cheeks and even the upper neck. The RF energy seems to initiate a beneficial healing process from within the skin with minimal side effects and minimal down time that combine to make this an attractive treatment offering.”

Amy Miller, MD
Saint Louis Skin Solutions

**PATIENT COMMENTS**

“I really noticed the improvements after my second treatment. My skin feels firmer and thicker and my foundation goes on more smoothly, without settling in the lines.”

PHYSICIAN CONSENT

Physician Name:  Amy Miller, MD
Clinic Name:  Saint Louis Skin Solutions
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I certify that I have obtained the necessary patient consent to share the images included in this case study with Lutronic and understand that these images will be used in Lutronic marketing and education materials. The patients’ rights to privacy will always be protected and eyes will be blocked (as necessary) to ensure this privacy.

Signed: __Signature On File_______________
Amy Miller, MD