BACKGROUND

Contour irregularities are one of the most common complaints patients present to plastic surgeons and dermatologists. These alterations may be the result of cellulite or they may follow a liposuction procedure. Present treatment modalities are less than optimal for a variety of reasons including low patient satisfaction, risks associated with the procedures and lack of objective efficacy of many of them. These treatments include topical preparations, mesotherapy, radiofrequency and ultrasound devices, and mid-infrared wavelength lasers coupled with pneumatic suction. This report details a pilot study performed using non invasive laser technology combined with vacuum to decrease the appearance of cellulite. Patients in this trial had high satisfaction and low adverse events. We present this data as initial observations with the hope of further exploration into this technology.

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the safety and efficacy of a new high powered dual wavelength device handpiece for the improvement in the appearance of contour irregularities in small challenging anatomic areas that are prominent in petite women with a low BMI.

STUDY

10 female subjects between the age of 36-70 and presenting with contour irregularities were enrolled in the study. Fitzpatrick skin type was I and II with an average BMI of 22. Nine subjects completed treatments. The treatments were treated with a low-level, dual wavelength laser (650nm and 915nm) and massage completed treatments. The subjects were treated with a low-level laser following an initial series of at least 8 treatments to determine an optimal treatment protocol. At the conclusion of the series of 8 treatments the patients were evaluated at month 1 and month 3 follow-ups. At three months efficacy was evaluated by clinician and patient satisfaction based on a 6 point scale of 1=extremely dissatisfied; 2= dissatisfied; 3=slightly satisfied; 4=satisfied; 5-6=extremely satisfied. Chart 1

RESULTS

Significant improvement was reported by both patient and physician. Subjects were evaluated at month 1 and month 3 following treatment. Minimal adverse effects were reported. This included mild edema and erythema. 80% of patients were satisfied with the treatment and noted improvement according to patient survey. Physician and subject satisfaction was high and correlated with level of clearance. The median patient satisfaction ratings at both month 1 and 3 were constant suggesting the treatment effect was consistent.

CONCLUSION

The SmoothShapes XV laser with Petite handpiece is a unique combination of laser and light wavelengths and gentle vacuum which have been successful at improving the appearance of contour irregularities including cellulite and post liposuction irregularities. It has a high degree of patient satisfaction and success and its non invasive nature makes it uniquely suited for cosmetic practices.

REFERENCES