

Alma Lasers' Fractional Technology Restores Outdated Systems

By Bob Kronemyer, Associate Editor



Greg Keller, M.D.
Clinical Associate Professor of
Surgery
University of California Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA

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With the introduction of their Pixel CO₂ Omnifit handpiece, Alma Lasers (Buffalo Grove, Ill.) has granted new life to old carbon dioxide (CO₂) lasers. Physicians can now dust off those antiquated CO₂ lasers and begin performing today's more popular fractional resurfacing procedures.

"You simply need an adapter to attach the Pixel Omnifit handpiece," explained Greg Keller, M.D., a facial plastic surgeon in private practice in Santa Barbara, Calif. and an associate clinical professor and co-director of the Facial Plastic Surgery Fellowship at UCLA (Los Angeles, Calif.).

According to Dr. Keller, "The main attraction to fractional technology over non-fractional technology is the much shorter recovery period." In addition, "I do not know of anyone who has encountered hypopigmentation or severe dyschromias with these treatments." Dr. Keller also likes that fractional procedures can be performed on areas such as the neck, arms and chest – areas that are not suitable for bulk ablative resurfacing.

"All my patients are happy," Dr. Keller observed. With one treatment session, "patients can see significant improvement in fine lines, wrinkles and acne scars. I think the Pixel CO₂ Omnifit will rehabilitate the skin just fine. As well, it is just as good for acne scarring as traditional CO₂. I also think results are comparable for superficial lines, particularly around the eye. Typically only very deep lines do better with traditional CO₂, but by using fractional technology, you can avoid many of the complications associated with traditional CO₂ treatments."

Surprisingly, the amount of downtime with the Pixel Omnifit is similar to that of a sunburn. During routine telephone follow-ups conducted by Dr. Keller's staff, eight patients treated with the Pixel CO₂ Omnifit were surveyed. "They described the pain as 2 to 3 out of 10," he reported. "Patients also felt comfortable being in public after two to three days, while looking a little sunburned. Within six to seven days total, patients felt they were absolutely back to normal."

According to the study, the improvement level among sun damaged individuals was generally rated about a 4.5 to 5 on a scale of 1 to 5. For fine lines, improvement was rated 2 to 3 with one pass, but jumped significantly to 4.5 with two passes. Furthermore, all patients stated they would undergo the Pixel procedure again and would enthusiastically recommend it to friends.

"You may have heard other companies say that with fractional devices you are limited to the amount of power you can use. But, in fact, you're able to use more power with the Pixel Omnifit – up to 100 watts," Dr. Keller said. He also noted there are fewer moving parts that can break down. Unlike mechanical scanners, which direct the beam in a pattern and have numerous moving parts, the Pixel handpiece uses holographic optics, which split the entire beam optically without any moving parts.