A preview of laser- and light-based solutions for the aesthetic practitioner, including:

**Palomar Medical Technologies’ SlimLipo system**, which “melts” unwanted fat by selectively targeting adipose tissue

**Candela’s Vbeam Perfecta**, which treats ecchymoses after cosmetic procedures; and the **QuadraLASE fractional CO₂ laser**

Focus on Skin-Rejuvenation Products—a selected listing of products and technologies

By Shannon Triplett Leade

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Palomar Medical Technologies . . . S2-3

Candela Corp . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . S4-5
the SlimLipo™ body-sculpting laser from Palomar Medical Technologies Inc “melts” unwanted fat efficiently and effectively by selectively targeting adipose tissue. It offers a choice of optimized wavelengths and a unique tip design, which provide excellent results with minimal downtime for the patient, according to the company.

The system provides skin tightening via laser-assisted lipolysis (with smoother skin with less contour deformities), improved healing with small incisions, less bruising, reduced pain, and minimal blood loss and swelling. It also produces results with less downtime for patients who need to return to work or other activities the same day.

SlimLipo also offers benefits to the physician. Palomar’s choice of highly selective wavelengths results in decreased fatigue—the SlimLipo treatment tip moves easily through all treatment areas, even fibrous tissue. It enables physicians to treat patients in areas that are not normally treated with traditional liposuction, such as small areas, and it works well for the revision of contour deformities.

SLIMLIPO FEATURES
The laser system offers the following:
• Continuous wave technology, for superior control of thermal effects versus competing high peak power lasers;
• Dual laser wavelengths of 924 nm and 975 nm for optimized fat and dermal tissue lasing;
• Interchangeable treatment tip designs for specific treatment areas;
• An aiming beam for precise visualization of the treatment tip during treatment;
• Improved speed of operation when compared with competing laser-assisted lipolysis devices; and,
• Reduced overhead costs (often, no anesthesiologist is needed).

The 924-nm wavelength is nearly four times the preference for fat over dermal tissue, which frees the lipids contained in adipose tissue for aspiration. By using selective photothermolysis to specifically target and “melt” fat, SlimLipo preserves more of the connective tissue; it doesn’t simply tear through the tissue structure.

The 975-nm wavelength is preferentially absorbed by the water in dermal tissue. The heating of dermal tissue has been shown to have skin-tightening effects for improved body contouring.

“As an active veteran plastic surgeon, I have never been more impressed with technical innovations than with SlimLipo,” says Lewis Obi, MD, of the Cosmetic Surgery Center in Jacksonville, Fla. “The results have been so impressive with this new technology that dozens of patients have scheduled SlimLipo procedures. It is remarkable that the majority of patients experience very little bruising, pain, or interference with activities. I have had to expand my surgery schedule for these new and grateful patients.”

“After working with all of the currently available wavelengths for laser-assisted lipolysis, Palomar is the company that has best addressed this by developing technology that fits the science,” says Robert Weiss, MD, director of the Maryland Laser, Skin, and Vein Institute in Hunt Valley, Md. “Using optimized wavelengths to specifically target both lipids and dermis and combining it with continuous-wave delivery for a smooth and efficient dispersion of energy through a specially engineered tip, this technology stands apart from its predecessors.”

Palomar’s SlimLipo laser-assisted liposuction system boasts a unique treatment tip design and selective wavelengths for melting fat and providing the desired thermal effects on surrounding tissue, use optimal wavelengths to melt fat, and provide the appropriate amount of heat to the surrounding tissue, according to company CEO Joseph P. Caruso.

Most laser liposuction systems on the market today use a 1064-nm or 1320-nm laser wavelength. According to the company, the best wavelength for most highly absorbed by fat is 924 nm, a wavelength patented for laser-assisted lipolysis by Palomar.

SlimLipo was the first 924-nm-based laser-assisted liposuction system on the market. It is three times as selectively absorbed by fat as the 1064-nm lasers and two times more than 1320-nm systems. It is also five times as selectively absorbed by blood.

This means that the SlimLipo laser liposuction unit dissolves fat and prevents bleeding much more effectively than other available systems.
Culminating ten years of research, SlimLipo™ is the first system with wavelengths designed specifically for laser-assisted lipolysis. Every detail—the choice of wavelengths, the unique treatment tip design, and continuous wave energy delivery—was developed to give physicians the first true laser body sculpting system.

Learn more about this revolutionary technology at www.slimlipo.com.
Candela Corp in 2009 has introduced the innovative 595-nm Vbeam® Perfecta pulsed dye laser (PDL), which treats ecchymoses after cosmetic procedures; and the QuadraLASE™ laser system, an advanced fractional skin rejuvenation laser system that combines the performance of a CO₂ laser with an innovative scanning system.

**Vbeam Perfecta**
Two recent clinical studies have reported patients have benefited from the Vbeam laser treatments for bruising resulting from cosmetic procedures. Results included a significantly faster healing process, improved outcomes, and greater overall patient satisfaction.

According to a study published in the *Archives of Facial Plastic Surgery*, Vbeam laser treatment resulted in a 63% mean improvement in ecchymosis scores within 48 to 72 hours, and maximal efficacy of the laser treatment was observed when it was performed between 5 and 10 days postoperatively.

The second study, a 2009 ASLMS abstract, evaluated the effectiveness and safety of the long-pulse PDL (the Vbeam) for the treatment of ecchymoses. Study results showed that 24 hours post-treatment with the Vbeam laser, the average improvement was 62% and 13% for treated and untreated bruises, respectively.

Edwin F. Williams, MD, director, The Williams Center Plastic Surgery Specialists, Albany, NY, and nationally recognized plastic surgeon, pioneered this breakthrough Vbeam treatment. “Anytime you penetrate the skin there is a potential for bruising, and we find that it is the bruising which occurs after many of these procedures that prevents patients from getting out into the public. “It is very difficult to cover these bruises—which can last for weeks—with makeup. After just one treatment with the Vbeam, our patients experience dramatic clearance of the injured blood vessels.”

**Quadralase**
The QuadraLASE laser systems is a comprehensive solution for skin rejuvenation and skin tightening. It is used for treating wrinkles, uneven tone and texture, sun damage, and acne scarring; removing skin tags and benign lesions; and more.

The QuadraLASE system utilizes the firm’s unique QuadraSCAN™ technology, which reduces heat buildup in the skin, resulting in increased patient comfort. Another benefit is the stimulation of new collagen. Additionally, it uses no disposables; a choice of QS and QD handpieces, which provides true variable depth ablation; and a small footprint that minimizes the need for space.

The unique delivery system keeps the longest possible time between adjacent spots, preventing thermal buildup. The QuadraSCAN technology makes the healing process much quicker and enables a faster patient recovery time.

Thomas E. Rohrer, MD, of SkinCare Physicians of Chestnut Hill, Mass, who performed some of the studies, says, “Based on my clinical experience with the QuadraLASE system, this device is very versatile, easy to use, and comfortable for the patient, and it delivers excellent results.”

The QuadraLASE unit includes a CO₂-based laser operating at a wavelength of 10,600 nm. Its optical spot size operates at 300 microns and 180 microns (fractional) and 300 microns (continuous). Coverage is 5% to 40% in fractional mode and 100% in traditional mode. Its aiming beam of 635 nm is intensity adjustable via the user screen.

**References**
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In the area of skin rejuvenation, PSP has identified several companies that offer not only laser- and light-based products but also ancillary products that work in tandem with the laser hardware—such as topical gels to relieve patient discomfort after treatment.

DiamondTome system features a vacuum that gently lifts the skin against a diamond-tipped wand, removing abraded skin as you go. The long-lasting, easy-to-grip wands provide various grits for a wide latitude of treatments.

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Cutera is a provider of laser and light-based aesthetic systems for skin resurfacing, skin rejuvenation, vascular therapy, and hair removal. Cutera has developed products for clinicians to offer safe and effective aesthetic treatments to patients. Cutera’s latest innovations, Pearl Fractional and Pearl, are based on the 2790-nm wavelength using YSGG technology. They offer an optimal and total solution for treating wrinkles, uneven texture, pore size, pigmentation, and sun damage.

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Iridex is a leader in developing, manufacturing, and marketing laser-based medical systems, including the Gemini, Varilite, and Venus-i laser systems. Indications for the Gemini include vascular lesions, pigmented lesions, cutaneous lesions, acne vulgaris, leg veins, facial wrinkles, and hair removal. Indications for the Varilite include vascular lesions, pigmented lesions, cutaneous lesions, and acne vulgaris. Indications for the Venus include wrinkles, general scars, and acne scars.

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Laserscope has been a leader in light-based medical technologies for more than 20 years. Its aesthetic division offers a variety of ablative and nonablative systems, including the Aura, Lyra, Venus, and Gemini dual-wavelength laser systems; as well as the innovative Solis IPL system.

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Lumenis manufactures medical and aesthetic lasers and a major developer of light-based technology. It pioneered the Lumenis One multifrequency platform, the IPL Quantum multipurpose system, and the cold standard LightSheer diode laser system for hair removal. It also introduced the Active FX fractional CO2 resurfacing procedure, with UltraPulse Encore, that provides dramatic results for skin tone, texture, and skin tightening with a single treatment.

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For a complete listing of products and technologies that cover the skin-rejuvenation field, visit PSP’s Web site at www.plasticsurgerypractice.com.
More laser systems coverage on PSP’s Web site:

“Lipo Wars: SlimLipo Versus the BodyJet” (August 2009). Two physicians describe the differences between popular but very new technologies.

“Stephen Mulholland, MD, on Sublative Rejuvenation” (August 2009). An emerging technology that uses RF (radio frequency) sublation to remodel the dermis while minimizing epidermal disruption.


On the Web, go to www.plasticsurgerypractice.com and click on “Archives.”

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