

Alma Lasers' AFT Advances Pulsed Light Treatment

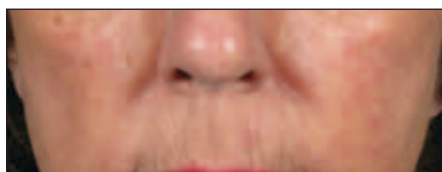
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Before Tx

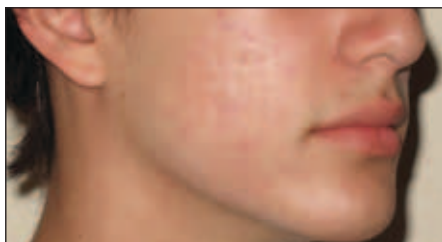


After AFT Tx

Photos courtesy of Victoria Cirillo-Hyland, M.D.



Acne scars before Tx



Acne scars after AFT Tx

Photos courtesy of Edward M. Zimmerman, M.D.

Aesthetic professionals looking to deliver skin rejuvenation treatments with maximum comfort and optimum results are finding success with the Advanced Fluorescence Technology™ (AFT) handpiece for the Harmony System from Alma Lasers (Buffalo Grove, Ill.). Physicians using AFT report excellent results similar to intense pulsed light (IPL) treatments, but with unique benefits and a high degree of patient satisfaction.

"I have been using IPL technology since the original devices came out in the 1990s," said Edward M. Zimmerman, M.D., president of the American Board of Laser Surgery, who has a practice in Las Vegas, Nev. "Over the years, I have owned and tried almost every variation of machine – with and without radiofrequency (RF) and suction. The Harmony with AFT is my platform of choice in terms of flexibility, efficacy, dependability and economy, and is a crucial player in my line-up of aesthetic services."

Dr. Zimmerman values AFT's proprietary IPL formula. "AFT shifts unused photons from the shorter wavelength / UV portion of the flash lamp spectrum and converts them to more usable parts of the visible spectrum, which are ideal for treating red and brown pigmented lesions, acne and hair," he explained. "AFT's unique features, including larger heads (cooled or non-cooled), high repetition rates, heads with tens of thousands of pulses, and no disposables, are critical for my busy practice."

Also an AFT proponent, Victoria Cirillo-Hyland, M.D., of Cirillo Cosmetic Dermatology Spa and Bryn Mawr Skin and Cancer Institute (Bryn Mawr, Penn.) elaborated, "AFT delivers more of the correct wavelength using a single, flat pulse as opposed to the stack or chain of pulses from traditional IPL, which results in peaks and valleys. Peaks are hot spots that can cause damaging burns.

AFT eliminates hot spots, allowing safer, more effective treatments. Furthermore, AFT is very effective within only one or two treatments. Other IPL systems can require five or six treatments."

Safety, pain and downtime are primary patient concerns. "Since Alma's AFT module allows me to use lower energy levels than traditional IPL, the patient experiences less pain," explained Dr. Cirillo-Hyland. "Furthermore, the handpiece is cooled making it even more comfortable."

While downtime varies between three to ten days for body and facial treatments, Dr. Cirillo-Hyland noted; "Patients can return to normal activities the same day but may need to explain what they had done."

For Dr. Zimmerman, lower energy means he can, "use the larger spot size heads and speed comfortably throughout treatments. This means we can often combine several treatments for color, skin tone, texture and tightening in one visit without risk or pain."

Dr. Zimmerman uses AFT to treat benign pigmented lesions and small vessels. "When addressing skin laxity and texture issues, we bundle AFT with fractionated Er:YAG, adding neurotoxins and dermal fillers for optimal results," he said. "We also bundle AFT with sclerotherapy and acne treatments, and to remove thinner, lighter hairs that are resistant to in-motion diode laser technology. We use AFT at an appropriate pulse width."

Dr. Cirillo-Hyland treats many skin type I-II patients with high levels of sun damage. "AFT is perfect to treat sun spots, broken capillaries, diffuse redness, fine lines, texture irregularities and larger pore size," she said. "My patients, many of whom have had multiple traditional IPL treatments, are extremely happy with their results from AFT. Safety, minimal discomfort and excellent efficacy make Alma's AFT a 'workhorse' in our practice."