



LASERS

## UNCONVENTIONAL & CONVENTIONAL USES OF A FRACTIONAL CO<sub>2</sub> LASER

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**Introduction:** Although a fractional CO<sub>2</sub> had got various indications, there are very few literature laying down the protocol for the management of various indications. This paper is intended at laying down a protocol for the less ventured treatments with a fractional CO<sub>2</sub> along with the traditional treatments done with a Fractional CO<sub>2</sub> laser.

**Aim & Objective:** To treat various indications for a fractional CO<sub>2</sub> laser previous not documented or widely published including Laser assisted drug delivery. To assess the results and safety profile. To lay down a protocol for the management of these cases.

**Methods:** Patients received a single to Multiple treatment using a fractional CO<sub>2</sub> laser device for various indications which included Acne Scars, Chicken Pox scars, Traumatic scars, Solar elastosis, Melasma, Epidermal Nevi, Syringoma, Actinic Chelitis, Acrokeratosis Verruciformis, Grover's disease, a total of 31 indications. Also for laser assisted drug delivery in indications like Alopecia Areata, Androgenetic Alopecia, Vitiligo, Keloids, Rhinophyma, Acne Keloidalis Nuchae, etc. The treatment protocols for these conditions which includes pre-treatment analysis, intraoperative treatment and post procedural management will be presented.

**Results:** Excellent results were obtained for majority of cases while the rest yielded satisfactory results, judged by doctor-patient satisfaction and photographic evidence. The downtime post treatment was averaging between 3-10 days and results were evident for some cases from the first week post treatment itself.

**Conclusions:** Fractional CO<sub>2</sub> laser is one of the most versatile lasers in the market today and yet very much under used. At times the learning curve prevents the user from experimenting further to try out new indications and tend to stick with the proven indications and protocols. However in my opinion the full potential of a Fractional CO<sub>2</sub> is yet to be studied and along with certain combination treatment it can become the center of any Aesthetic surgeons laser treatment.

