

Technological Advancements Transform Non-Invasive Body Contouring Market

procedures. Patients have waited for it, and finally the technology is catching up to the demand. That's the most exciting part."



Before Tx



After two VASER Shape treatments
Photos courtesy of Andrew Kwak, M.D.



Arms before Tx



Arms after one VASER Shape Tx
Photos courtesy of George Davis, M.D.

A prominent development in the body shaping / skin tightening segment is the use of High-Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU). With this technology the ultrasound beam is focused at specific depths beneath the epidermis resulting in adipose tissue thermocoagulation. The Liposonix system (also from Solta Medical), uses HIFU energy that disrupts subcutaneous adipose tissue for a non-invasive treatment. Using a special transducer, this device delivers energy to the skin's surface at a relatively low intensity, but increases energy in the subcutaneous fat.

In comparison, the Ultracontour™ device from MedixSysteme (Nimes, France), offers dual ultrasonic technology: High Focalized Ultrasound (HFU) and Ultrasound Multi-Lymphatic Drainage (UMD) from one platform. Using this system, physicians apply energy below the skin's surface in the subcutaneous tissue to treat fat cells and stimulate lymphatic drainage to increase lymph and blood circulation. According to Rafael Nunes, M.D., a plastic surgeon at Slim Clinique (Rio De Janeiro, Brazil), "We have a lot of devices in our clinics: SlimLipo, Accent XL, Accent Ultra, the Titan, UltraShape VDF, Harmony, Fraxel Dual and Active FX.



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Ultracontour is one of the best devices to treat body reshaping non-invasively. In my practice, the number of non-surgical procedures has increased and is now, easily, up to 70% of my business."

Most experts will agree that ultrasound-based devices are probably best represented by VASER Shape from Sound Surgical Technologies (Louisville, Colorado, U.S.). The device's ultrasound handpiece has dual transducers to deliver a double, controlled beam of 1 MHz frequency to a specified depth of adipose tissue. Body sculpting results are achieved via diathermy, which creates a micromassage effect on fat cells leading to a reduction in the appearance of cellulite and a slimming effect.

The ProLipoCav from Protocadmus Technologies (Valencia, Spain) uses both 3 MHz ultrasound to treat the body and face and an UltraSonic Cavitation wavelength (at 40 KHz) for body shaping and fat reduction procedures.

A relative newcomer to the non-invasive body-contouring arena, the Exilis, from BTL Industries (Prague, Czech Republic), delivers ultrasound and RF energy plus cooling simultaneously via a single applicator tip, and features a built-in safety system called Energy Flow Control (EFC), which minimizes energy peaks and continuously monitors skin temperature and other parameters. The result is circumferential reduction of up to 10 cm in some patients, tighter skin and significant improvement in skin laxity on the face and body.

Another non-invasive fat reduction and body contouring system, recently re-named the UltraShape for U.S. release from Syneron, has been in use all over Europe for years where it is known as the UltraShape Contour system. This very