



happen, meaning patients were doomed to make up but had no wrinkles. Fraxel came along—a CO2 laser that sent small pulses ablating small columns of skin. Treatment resulted in very little scarring and none of the streaks, but results weren't quite as good as the Ultrapulse.

Pearl

Then I discovered the YSGG, or yttrium scandium gallium garnet laser. This crystal has been around for years, but no one has used it in resurfacing.

The old CO2 didn't absorb a lot of water, but it evaporated the water and the residual heat from it went on to scar the skin. The Erbium YAG absorbed too much water—when you lasered, it didn't go deep enough. You had a nice superficial peel, but no more.

The YSGG wavelength is between the two. You get good water absorption but not too much heating afterwards.

The laser is quite portable, mounted on a stand and comes with various attachments. Generally you use general anaesthetic, but if you're just going to treat the upper lip, you can use a dental block. You can also use 23% EMLA cream.

This wavelength uses the same ablation technology as the Ultrapulse



The YSGG wavelength uses ablation, coagulation and residual heat which causes the collagen remodelling



Before and after CO2 treatment, showing zones of hypopigmentation

ie, ablation, coagulation and collagen remodeling.

Following treatment, all you need are moisturisers.

I started off using the recommended energy settings but I found that by pushing the energies up, I was getting better results. Patients are completely healed after one week. They can be slightly red

but are able to go to work with make up. Pearl resurfacing is for sun damage and mild rejuvenation, not for large wrinkles.

For deep wrinkles I use the Pearl Fractional Laser. It is attached to the same platform as the Pearl but ablate microcolumns of tissue deep into the dermis. It leaves micro areas of normal epithelium inbetween. This allows for rapid epitheliasation and healing. Stripes are avoided by treating the area with a second pass the hand piece being rotated 30 degrees.

Pearl fusion involves combining the two treatments. You can do the deep fractional procedure around the deep wrinkles or acne and a superficial one over the whole face. This way, you will not end up with a tidemark. The lighter laser rejuvenates the skin, the fractional, the wrinkles.

The exclusive YSGG wave length seems to maximize results with a minimum down time in a single treatment.

Both these treatments can be combined with other facial procedures such as face lift, blepharoplasty, brow lift for much improved results.

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Before and after pearl fusion in combination with face lift and blepharoplasty