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News Release

Study Published in Facial Plastic Surgery Journal Finds Selective Heating of Fibrous Septae Key to Success and Safety of Thermage® ThermaCool™ System

HAYWARD, Calif. - June 20, 2005. Research published today in the June/July 2005 issue of Facial Plastic Surgery Journal (FPSJ) further validates the unique mechanism of action produced deep within the skin by the Thermage® ThermaCool™ System's monopolar radiofrequency (RF) energy. While the immediate tissue tightening and dermal collagen remodeling effects produced by the ThermaCool system have been well established since the device's introduction in 2002, according to lead author Manoj T. Abraham, M.D., Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, New York Medical College, Valhalla, New York, selective heating and tightening of the fibrous "threads" that run through the fat (subcutaneous fibrous septae) better explain visible contouring changes that are unique to the Thermage Procedure.

In the paper titled "Current Concepts in Nonablative Radiofrequency Rejuvenation of the Lower Face and Neck," Dr. Abraham credits research findings by co-author E. Victor Ross, M.D., Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, California, with first documenting the unique properties of monopolar radiofrequency to selectively heat and tighten the natural fibrous septae threads that give facial skin its structure and shape.

"When radiofrequency energy is delivered within the skin, it favors the path of least resistance to tighten and remodel collagen-which, in this case, is the fibrous septae," says Dr. Abraham. "If you think of the skin's inner framework as plumbing, radiofrequency energy is delivered like water and empties through the channels of fibrous septae producing the tightening that is seen. Unless the channels overflow with radiofrequency energy, there should be minimal overflow of heating to the fat tissue."

"This new research about selective heating of fibrous septae has deepened our understanding of how capacitively coupled RF is able to achieve its unique contouring effect without damaging the fat," said Mitch Levinson, Vice President of Research and Development for Thermage. "The electric current finds its path of least resistance through the fibrous septae, so most of the heating effect is in the collagenous fibrous septae threads that connect the dermis to the fascia, and not in the fat layer."

Thermage has continually refined its radiofrequency technology to maximize results while ensuring patient safety. Last year, the company introduced and trained its physician users on an enhanced treatment algorithm that supports the role of selectively heating fibrous septae

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According to Mr. Levinson, "The same immediate collagen contraction and dermal remodeling that we observe in the dermis is happening in the deeper structural collagen as well. And for all the same reasons that the new treatment approach works in the dermis, the use of multiple passes at moderate treatment levels also optimizes the contouring effects while minimizing pain and adverse events."

The Thermage procedure offers physicians and their patients a non-invasive skin-tightening and contouring option without the downtime and recovery period associated with invasive cosmetic procedures such as conventional lifting surgery, liposuction and laser treatments. Commercially launched in July 2002, the Thermage ThermaCool device is cleared by the FDA for the treatment of facial wrinkles and rhytids adding to its clearance obtained in November 2002 for treatment of the periorbital area (around the eyes).

"Understanding the complex mechanism of action delivered by the ThermaCool System is vital to enhancing future clinical outcomes and expanding treatment parameters beyond the face and neck," adds Dr. Abraham. "Monopolar radiofrequency technology will play an increasingly important role in future facial rejuvenation and body contouring."

About Thermage

As the first and only scientifically proven non-invasive tissue tightening and contouring technology, the Thermage procedure has been featured extensively as an innovative and unique cosmetic procedure by such national media as the CBS Morning Show, Entertainment Tonight, Vogue Magazine and The Oprah Winfrey Show.

A leading medical device company, Thermage develops innovative aesthetic technologies, including its patented capacitive radiofrequency device, to achieve a desired cosmetic or therapeutic effect on and under the skin surface. Its flagship ThermaCool system is available worldwide in 34 countries and is currently installed in over 1,200 dermatology, plastic surgery, and other cosmetic surgery practices. Founded in 1996, the Company's headquarters are located in Hayward, California, proximate to the San Francisco Bay Area and the Silicon Valley.

For more information about Thermage and its ThermaCool system, or to locate physicians using its exclusive radiofrequency technology, log on to www.thermage.com.

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