

ZWave Shines in Both Stand-Alone and Adjunctive Applications

By Jeffrey Frentzen, Executive Editor



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Based on radial pulse technology, the ZWave anti-cellulite treatment device from Zimmer MedizinSystems (Irvine, Calif.) utilizes high energy acoustic waves transmitted through the surface of the skin and dispersed radially into the tissue to affect a large and deep treatment area.

Used as a stand-alone procedure, this unit is FDA cleared as a primary treatment for cellulite or as a secondary therapy after other methods of cellulite treatment have been delivered. According to a clinical study from Germany, radial pulse technology works to significantly reduce the perimeter of the thigh, after which the appearance of cellulite can be improved considerably.

“I was searching for an effective method to address stand-alone treatment of cellulite, as well as an adjunctive treatment for many

of the body contouring procedures that we do,” stated Gordon H. Sasaki, M.D., F.A.C.S., clinical professor in the Department of Plastic Surgery at the Loma Linda Medical University Center in Loma Linda, Calif. “The ZWave fit the bill and has been adopted and used for over two years with great acceptance by staff and patients.”

“We have surgical, as well as many other invasive methods for addressing cellulite,” Dr. Sasaki continued. “There are a number of patients who do not want invasive – or even minimally invasive – methods, and prefer a non-invasive procedure. ZWave works very well for treating Grade 1 cellulite.”

Radial pulse therapy is a form of energy that performs similarly to light, explained Amy Taub, M.D., a dermatologist in Lincolnshire, Ill., and assistant

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clinical professor at Northwestern University Medical School, Department of Dermatology in Chicago, Ill. “If you use a smaller spot size, or tip diameter, you obtain a more superficial energy that is denser. This means that the ZWave, which has a bigger spot size, can penetrate to the right depth of fat, but not create inflammation since the fluence isn’t so concentrated.”

Dr. Sasaki employs the ZWave after surgical procedures to help smooth out irregularities and reduce edema that may be present. “We start the ZWave treatment as soon as the patient is able to tolerate it, which is usually about three weeks following the surgical procedure,” he said. “It can help to diminish fluids and to break up internal scars after liposuction.”

Dr. Taub has employed the device as a post treatment therapy as well, following CoolSculpting. “I had heard

from colleagues that the ZWave improved CoolSculpting results and decreased side effects,” she expressed. “Now we use it after every CoolSculpting cycle, as well as in a protocol we have that uses combination therapy for cellulite and non-invasive body shaping.”

“Adding ZWave resulted in improved outcomes and quicker recovery with reduced side effects,” Dr. Taub stated. “And the device itself is easy to use. The delivery systems are user-friendly and the settings are simple.”

The ZWave has been a valuable addition to Dr. Sasaki’s practice with good return on investment (ROI). “It is not so much a cost issue because the cost is low and the disposable is minimal,” he said. “The main thing about the device’s ROI is the number of returning patients. I cannot overemphasize how easy of a treatment it is to deliver and for the patient to receive.”



Before and after ZWave Tx
 Photos courtesy of Zimmer MedizinSystems

