

Large Volume Contouring with VASER Lipo Yields Excellent Skin Retraction

By Bob Kronemyer, Associate Editor

Surgeons employing the VASER Lipo system from Sound Surgical Technologies LLC (Louisville, Colo.) have started observing an unexpected but significant benefit. When performing large volume contouring with this system, noticeable skin retraction without skin excision has become a routine occurrence.

"I did not expect for the skin to retract," said Mokhtar Asaadi, M.D., F.A.C.S., a plastic surgeon in private practice in New York City, N.Y. Dr. Asaadi has been performing large volume truncal contouring (LVTC) without abdominoplasty, with the ultrasound device for the past four and a half years. "In the beginning, I thought this retraction was happening just incidentally, but I discovered that skin retraction is uniform in every patient no matter their weight, body mass index or how much fat they have in each area."



Mokhtar Asaadi, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Plastic Surgeon
New York City, NY

"In a matter of three to six days, skin retraction is about 30%. At three to four weeks, the average person achieves about a 40% retraction."

In a retrospective study of 130 patients (119 female, 11 male), 41 underwent large volume circumferential contouring of the trunk with the VASER system. "There was high patient satisfaction and a very small risk of complication," Dr. Asaadi conveyed. "Every single patient lost weight from 5 lbs. up to 40 lbs. Women who were wearing a size 22 were reduced to a size 10 or 12, while women who started as a size 12 ended up at size 2. The entire body changed. The VASER treatment also results in a very smooth appearance."

For some of the study patients, a 10 cm x 10 cm square marking was placed on each side of the abdomen, as well as on the flanks. Following treatment, the markings decreased on average to 9 cm x 9 cm.

"In other words, there is a 19% retraction of the skin immediately after the procedure," reported Dr. Asaadi, principle investigator of the study. "In a matter of three to six days, skin retraction is about 30%. At three to four weeks, the average person achieves about a 40% retraction."

According to Dr. Asaadi, who has named this single-session procedure MASTERTUCK, treating an abdomen in an average person takes about two hours. Skin contracts mostly in the longitudinal axis of the body (from the face down). Horizontally, "there is not as much skin contraction," he advised.

Dr. Asaadi also noted that, "minimizing ultrasound output provides greater tissue fragmentation, while decreasing the probability of complications." Since the VASER system utilizes solid titanium probes, there is "more efficient delivery

of ultrasound energy, enabling the use of smaller probes and smaller incisions."

VASER probes also come with one, two or three tip grooves. "This provides greater versatility and precision," Dr. Asaadi explained. Moreover, the VASER system offers a choice of continuous or pulsating ultrasound delivery, which allows the surgeon to tailor his approach according to the extent of fibrosis."

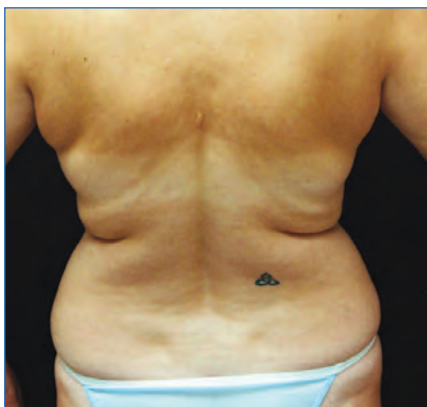
A recently published study in the *Aesthetic Surgery Journal* found that VASER Lipo significantly limits blood loss during liposuction when compared to traditional liposuction alone. The authors concluded that VASER-assisted lipoplasty should be recommended over traditional suction-assisted lipoplasty for patients undergoing large-volume liposuction procedures or treatments in very fibrous areas of the body where increased blood loss is expected.



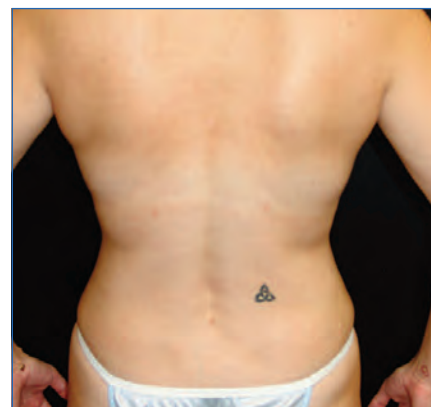
Before Tx
Photos courtesy of Mokhtar Asaad, MD, FACS.



After VASER Lipo Tx



Before Tx
Photos courtesy of Mokhtar Asaad, MD, FACS.



After VASER Lipo Tx