

# Epi-Infused Microdermabrasion Offers Tx Customization

BY BOB KRONEMYER, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Being able to tailor patient treatment at the exact time of need is one of the great advantages of Epi-Infused™ microdermabrasion, which is one of three levels of treatments offered by the DermaSweep MD system from CosMedic R & D, Inc. (Rocklin, Calif.).

“What is best for the patient actually changes over the seasons,” said Amy B. Lewis, M.D., a dermatologist in private practice in Manhattan. “For instance, during the summer, a patient may have more oily skin and may break out a little bit. An acne infusion will help



**Amy B. Lewis, M.D.**

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with the breakout and unclog pores. But after the summer, when that same patient has been out in the sun too much and has more brown spots, he/she may benefit from pigment infusion with bleaching agents. Similarly, that same patient in the winter may be a good candidate for a hydration infusion if he/she is dry from skiing and exposed excessively to cold weather. With traditional microdermabrasion, you cannot change treatment for different needs.”

Epi-Infused microdermabrasion employs a total of five solutions, including acne, bleaching, antioxidant and hydration. However, Dr. Lewis rarely uses more than one solution during the same treatment session. “The face is definitely the number one treated area, followed by the chest and hands,” she said. A typical facial session lasts about 15 minutes. “We usually schedule about six sessions, once every month or once every three weeks. Maintenance is recommended a few times a year.”

Dr. Lewis noted that even after one treatment session, “there is less skin irritation compared to regular microdermabrasion and results are better. I think the patient has more luster, pores appear cleaner and skin looks better. There is also less irritation, in part because the system is particle-free. In addition, the infusion creates a cool sensation on the skin as you perform manual exfoliation. With less inflammation, most patients love their skin immediately after treatment. Skin feels smooth.”

The various bristle tips of Epi-Infused microdermabrasion also provides customized treatment. “We may start with a mild or moderate tip, then finish up with a silk tip, which is like a polisher. This is very soothing to the skin,” said Dr. Lewis, whose office has color-coded the tips. “This system takes microdermabrasion to the next level. Not only are you exfoliating manually the dead skin and unclogging the pores with the tips, but positive pressure allows the infusion to be pushed deeper into the layers of skin, so you end up with better absorption.”

Epi-Infused microdermabrasion can also be used immediately prior to some other aesthetic procedures, such as intense pulsed light (IPL). “You’re able to use a lower energy setting of IPL for the same improvement, which makes for less irritation,” said Dr. Lewis, an assistant clinical professor of dermatology at Yale University School of Medicine. Likewise, the innovative microdermabrasion system can be used before photodynamic therapy (PDT) with

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Levulan (DUSA Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Wilmington, Mass.) to significantly speed up penetration of the light-activated agent.

“If taught correctly, Epi-Infused microdermabrasion is simple to perform,” Dr. Lewis stated. “Every patient who has had treatment loves it. Patients of traditional microdermabrasion have also become converts. Results are more dramatic. I believe Epi-Infused microdermabrasion represents the next generation of the in-office mechanical peel. However, it is a less harsh treatment than a full chemical peel.” ■