

Improved Cooling Advances

Alma's Soprano for Hair Removal



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Before Tx



After Soprano^{ICE} Tx

Photos courtesy of Alma Lasers

By Kevin A. Wilson, Contributing Editor

Since the advent of IN-Motion technology, the high powered Soprano hair removal laser platform from Alma Lasers (Buffalo Grove, Ill.) has stood out, allowing practitioners to safely deliver more energy. With the addition of improved cooling technology and a lighter handpiece, the newest iteration of the system, Soprano^{ICE}, makes laser hair removal easier on both patients and practitioners.

Based on Alma's Super Hair Removal (SHR) technology, the Soprano^{ICE} features clinically proven safety and efficacy, as well as a coverage rate of 10 Hz per second – reportedly the highest in the industry – all without the need for costly consumables. Additionally, this newest version still includes the HR mode.

According to Stephen Martin, M.D., a facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon, and medical director of The Martin Center (Mobile, Ala.), the addition of improved cooling and a lighter handpiece were exactly the right improvements to make. Dr. Martin was an early adopter of the original Soprano technology and has used every edition of the device since then. "As far as I'm concerned the 810 nm diode laser is the gold standard, and that's what it starts with," he said. "IN-Motion technology allows us to take hair removal further, and treat a wider variety of patients, but with improved cooling patient comfort is dramatically better, and the lightweight ergonomic handpiece makes it easier for my technicians to perform the same quality treatment each and every time, even if they've already done several that day."

These recent changes are by no means minor. A special metallic ring

surrounds the device's powerful sapphire cooling tip to increase efficiency, which lengthens the cooling time and further minimizes any discomfort. "The laser diodes are also more efficient, producing less excess heat," Dr. Martin explained. "All together the different improvements add up to about 25% improved TEC cooling. Between better cooling, a more efficient diode laser, and the existing technologies, we can deliver up to 20 J/cm² of energy safely enough to treat even very light hair or patients with dark skin."

In addition, as mentioned, the device's new handpiece is sleeker, lighter and designed with comfort in mind. "The weight of the compact ICE handpiece is reduced by about 50% from that of the previous versions. That alone goes a long way to reducing operator fatigue," Dr. Martin pointed out.

Combining these improvements with existing SHR technology and the IN-Motion technique enables gradual heating of the follicles to prevent hair regrowth and make treatment more tolerable. This is especially useful for darker skin types, which are notoriously difficult to treat with any laser due to the abundance of epidermal melanin as a competing chromophore. "This is the perfect solution for practitioners with a higher volume of hair removal patients," Dr. Martin added. "IN-Motion technology represents a breakthrough in patient comfort, speed of procedures and reproducible clinical results."

As with its predecessors, Soprano^{ICE} is FDA cleared for treating skin types I through VI, as well as tanned skin.