

Subcutaneous Neck Skin Plasma Tightening



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KEYWORDS

• Subdermal plasma • J-plazty • J-plasma • Platysmaplasty • Neck lift • Neck tightening • Facelift

KEY POINTS

- An introduction to plasma energy and its particular characteristics as an alternative energy source for skin tightening is provided.
- We provide an introduction to a minimally invasive suturing technique allowing for the plication of the platysma and superficial musculoaponeurotic system for optimal deep tissue positioning.
- The use of VASER ultrasound energy using emulsification of fat for debulking and contouring of the face and neck and preparing subdermal tissue for plasma energy application is described.

 Video content accompanies this article at <http://www.advancesincosmeticsurgery.com>.

INTRODUCTION

The treatment of face and neck laxity is of concern to both patients and surgeons when discussing cosmetic surgery. Rejuvenation procedures ultimately attempt to improve the individual elements of:

- Face and neck volume
- Platysma laxity and banding
- Superficial musculoaponeurotic system (SMAS) laxity
- Skin laxity
- Skin quality

These procedures can be performed independently or in combination to achieve the most efficacious outcomes. The gold standard continues to involve a preauricular and postauricular incision for surgical manipulation of the platysma and the SMAS in conjunction with skin excision—the traditional facelift. However, the continued shift toward minimally invasive procedures has promoted the advent of techniques and devices

intended to offer an alternative and eventually a replacement of traditional face and neck lifting surgery. Many devices have been applied externally and internally and use modalities such as radiofrequency (RF), laser, and ultrasound energy to create a thermal effect to contract tissue and create a skin-tightening effect. Patients and physicians seek to perform minimally invasive procedures in the office and under local anesthesia that offer smaller incisions and shorter recovery to achieve a more natural appearance. Yet, the foundational elements of face and neck rejuvenation need to be addressed to achieve a successful and long lasting result.

The Jplazty technique is described, in which the pillars of deep tissue repositioning, liposuction, and skin tightening are addressed, but moreover, the identification, preservation, and plasma-based tightening of subdermal musculocutaneous ligaments or the fibroseptal network (FSN) is performed.

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