**WHY WE’RE BUYING A FRACTIONAL CO2 LASER**

*(FemTouch on AcuPulse, made by Lumenis)*

Bruce Farringer M.D. F.A.C.O.G.

Leah Najima M.D. F.A.C.O.G.

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A better question would be “Why did we wait until now to buy a laser?” After all, we’ve been using CO2 lasers in Operating Rooms for decades (Dr. Farringer since 1988, Dr. Najima since 1997) to treat a variety of diseases of the vulva, vagina, and cervix. We’ve used CO2 lasers inside the abdomen and pelvis to treat endometriosis and adhesions.

We’re introducing a CO2 laser into our office practice for one simple reason: we believe it has the potential to improve vaginal health and well-being for many of our patients. For decades, laser therapy has been known to improve the appearance, elasticity, and function of skin all over the body. Lasers are used for many skin conditions: skin resurfacing, wrinkles, tattoo removal, pigmentation disorders, stretch marks, scar revision, and acne to name a few. Since the vagina is lined with skin, it makes perfect sense that vaginal health, function, elasticity, and well-being could be improved by laser therapy.

As Gynecologists, our patients are frequently confronted with vaginal symptoms. For such a small part of the body, the vagina can certainly wreak havoc on a woman’s enjoyment of life in general, and sex in particular. Vaginal problems can have a profound impact on frequency and enjoyment of sex, and can cause relationship problems. Vaginal problems can include a variety of symptoms, including:

* Dryness
* Burning
* Discharge
* Bleeding during or after sex
* Painful sex
* Decreased frequency of sex, and relationship stress
* Vaginal laxity, particularly after childbirth
* Urinary symptoms (pain, frequency, urgency, frequent infections)

A thorough pelvic exam is required before considering laser therapy, to check for other treatable causes of vaginal symptoms or sexual problems. As Board-Certified Obstetrician-Gynecologists, we believe we’re highly qualified to diagnose and treat infections, hormone deficiency, or anatomic/structural problems. If vaginal symptoms or sexual problems persist after these conditions are addressed, we believe vaginal laser therapy is a very reasonable “next step,” and we’re proud to be able to offer it in our practice.