

Press Release on Sidelaze laser:

December 2012

Dr. M. Christine Lee is one of the first doctors in the U.S. trained and experienced at performing a groundbreaking new procedure, "The Closed Facelift," using the Sidelaze laser. Dr. Lee utilizes a new 1440 nm Nd:YAG wavelength 800 micron fiber (ultra-thin) side-firing laser that is inserted thru a small opening in the skin where she uses it to heat the undersurface of the skin (called the subdermal layer). This fiber contains a unique bidirectional laser, which allows for cutting thru the septae when directed sideways, and selective heating of the underside of the dermis when directed upwards which results in significant tissue tightening.

The 1440 nm wavelength has a high affinity for fat (used for laser lipolysis), and shallow heating of collagen fibers (water) within the dermis and septae. The design of the 2 mm microcannula and specificity of the wavelength for adipose and collagen makes it an ideal design for use in contouring the lower face and neck and perioral region.

The Closed Facelift results in 50-60% tightening of the lower face and neck, and significant improvement of resistant vertical perioral lines (which are notoriously resistant to every other therapy even CO2 laser). There is no other laser, invasive or noninvasive, that has produced results that come closer to the results of a traditional lower facelift.

Other noninvasive lasers have produced, at best, 20-30% tightening. Invasive lasers such as CO2 laser do not give the results seen with this less invasive approach. It is less invasive because it does not injure the surface of the skin so there is no burn wound to take care of.

The recovery period is relatively short and mild because the procedure is performed under local tumescent anesthesia and there are only a few small, 1-2 mm openings made in the submental (under chin) region, and under both earlobes, which are almost invisible after healing. Compared to the long downtime associated with a traditional lower facelift and the higher rates of complications and risks associated with that procedure, the results achieved with this less invasive approach make it an attractive alternative to a traditional facelift. It is best described as a "Closed Facelift," because it does not involve cutting the skin, but it achieves facelift like results. It is the best treatment available for treating the difficult resistant vertical deep lines around the mouth ("smoker" lines) and deep nasolabial folds.