# Ocular Surface temperature changes associated with Pelleve Radiofrequency Treatment

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- Gentle heating of the skin denatures & contracts collagen in the deep dermis & stimulates fibroblast activity/neocollagenesis
  - No injury in epidermis thus no downtime







### **III** Wills Eye Institute











# How Much Heat is Required?

#### Not Safe

- Heating sufficient to cause complete collagen fiber dissolution (collagen turns into gelatin)
- Tissue necrosis, scarring, burning, etc.

#### Safe, Effective

- Heating partially disrupts semi crystalline fibril structure
- Weak intermolecular bonds maintain structural stability
- Contraction along the length of collagen fibers occurs
- Thermally mediated healing response causes new collagen formation

#### Safe, Not Effective

- Heating insufficient to disrupt collagen fibril structure
- No clinical effect observed





## What Subdermal Temperature?

- 65° C is most commonly referenced temp for human collagen modification
- 63-67° C for sheepskin
- 54-59° C for intact rat tail tendon
- 61-63° C for human scleral collagen
- 55-59° C for human corneal collagen
- 65-75° C Ulthera citation for human "connective tissue"
- 55-65° C Thermage target temperature
- 55-65° C Accent target temperature





## Study

 Determine effects of lower lid & crows feet soft tissue heating on the globe

13 consecutive patients enrolled

 Baseline surface temperature of sclera/globe at point half way between limbus & inferior fornix



- Therapeutic treatment of soft tissue to obtain surface skin temperature of 39-42°C,
- Temperature re-recorded on ocular surface at end of treatment
- Treatment alternated right and left for total of one treatment per decade of life to each side
  - 42 yo had each eye area treated 4 times





## IR temperature measurement







### Results

- Baseline temperature
  - Right: 35.43°C & Left: 34.45°C
- 13 patients, 58 passes
  - Average 4.54 treatment cycles/eyelid
- Post treatment inferior globe temperature
  - Right: 36.52°C & Left: 36.57°C
- No reported changes in vision





### Conclusions

- Pelleve RF treatment of periocular rhytids has minimal energy transfer to globe with only 1.61°C change in surface temperature.
  - Measured temperature still well below internal body temperature and certainly well below temperature needed to induce scleral injury



### Conclusions

- Manual Retraction of the lower lid with the patient looking upwards allows excellent treatment of periocular skin along orbital rim
- Technique does not significantly heat the sclera
  - Eliminates the need for shielding the globe during treatment
  - Did not have subjective effect on vision





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