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**PATIENT PRIVACY
AND SOCIAL MEDIA:
What You Need to Know**

**Protocols That
Help Reduce
The Risk of PIH**

Anthony Youn, MD

On the Power of Mass Media in Plastic Surgery

Anthony Youn, M.D.

Plus:

- ❖ Micro-Resurfacing
- ❖ Staff Training Resources



Powered microsaws use vibration to cut bone, leaving soft tissue unharmed for a more comfortable recovery.

Behrooz “Bruce” Torkian, MD, of Torkian Facial Plastic Surgery in Beverly Hills, California, recently began incorporating the PIEZOSURGERY ultrasonic saw (Mectron) in his rhinoplasties, thanks in part to the company’s introduction of a new rhinoplasty osteotomy attachment. Although he is “very, very comfortable” performing chisel and mallet osteotomies, he has been impressed with the benefits offered by the powered saw, including decreased bruising and bleeding, and more precise results. “The rapid oscillation of the saw results in the ability to cut through bone without injuring mucosa,” says Dr. Torkian. “We see less bleeding after surgery, so recovery is more comfortable—both physically and psychologically—for the patient. The splints are cleaner as well, which makes maintenance of the splints postoperatively a little easier.”

He finds that the microsaw is more reliable, particularly in cases where the patient has previous breaks. “The chisel is sometimes a little bit unpredictable because if a nose has been broken or operated on before, the chisel will follow

“The advantage of the powered burs is you can reduce the bone and the cartilage with the same tool.”

the path of least resistance, so it may go off in a different direction,” he says. “Chisels also need to be sharpened regularly—which reduces this risk—but means they do require regular maintenance. The saw is a refreshing improvement on that.”

Dr. Torkian currently uses the microsaw for patients with thinner bones but plans to incorporate the new tool for all patients as his comfort increases. “I don’t want to use this saw on a patient with very thick bone until I’m really comfortable with it, and with knowing where I am in relation to the anatomy of the skin and the mucus membrane on the inside,” he says. “Once I get a better feel for that, I’ll start applying it to the thicker bone cases as well.”

He estimates that it took about 10 procedures until he felt comfortable with the powered saw. “I have gone back and looked at all of the cases that I’ve done with the saw and checked to determine whether I made the cut in the bone in the same position that I would have made it with the osteotome had I been using it,” says Dr. Torkian. “I do feel that the cuts are in the same position and they are not conspicuous, so I’m happy with the way it’s going so far. I feel I’m getting as good a result with the saw as I would have with the chisel.”

Manhattan-based facial plastic surgeon and ENT, Sam Rizk, MD, had extensive experience using powered instruments for ear surgery and was an early adopter of the microsaw in rhinoplasty. He’s been using Anthony Products’ Micromotor System for 10 years and trains other surgeons as well. He uses the powered microsaw with rotating bone bur attachments for all of his endonasal rhinoplasties.

“If you’re using a chisel or a rasp to take down the bone and a knife to take down the cartilage, there’s going to be a little discrepancy in height in the middle of the nose, which can look unnatural. You can also over-reduce things with the osteotomes,” says Dr. Rizk. “The advantage of the powered burs is you can reduce the bone and the cartilage with the same tool. Therefore, you’re getting a smoother, more predictable and more natural-looking result, and the surgery is more controlled, because you are using powered burs that very accurately reduce the bone and cartilage Imm at a time.”



Powered microsaws are particularly beneficial for evenly reducing bumps of bone and cartilage on the nasal bridge.

Addressing Specific Concerns

Philip Miller, MD, of Gotham Plastic Surgery in New York City, uses a traditional osteotome for most of his rhinoplasty procedures and utilizes a Bien-Air Microsaw for specific irregularities. For patients with small bumps on the bridge of the nose, he uses the saw with a rasp attachment to perform the less invasive microrhinoplasty, which can be done under local anesthesia. "This is not for someone who has a very large bump or hump. It's for someone who has a very small bump but is happy with their tip," he says. "All they want to do is have that specific area removed.

"Because it's a very fast, vibrating machine, if the rasp is placed on soft tissue, it won't cause any damage," continues Dr. Miller. "However, when it's placed on bone—or even fixed cartilage—it will slowly shave it down to refine and smooth any irregularities. Almost all the other rasps that exist right now are pretty wide and thick, and require a back-and-forth motion to remove the bump. This attachment is very narrow, and since it's not moving back and forth to any significant degree, I just need to put it down on top of the bump and it sands it down."

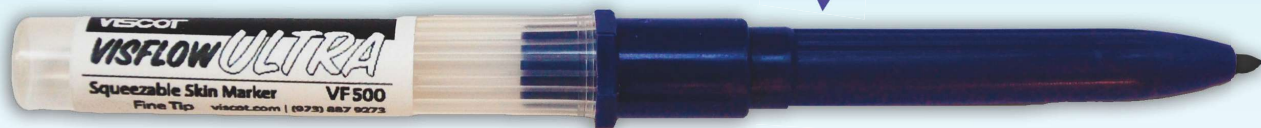
Another indication for which Dr. Miller uses the powered microsaw—with an osteotomy attachment—is removing

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