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F.D.A. Clears Breakthrough, Non-Surgical Treatment Of Wrinkles Using Radio Frequency Technology

New York, NY January 8, 2003 – For the first time ever, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has cleared a device proven to remove wrinkles from the face using radio frequency technology. The non-invasive breakthrough device developed by California-based ArthroCare Corp. is called the The Visage® radiofrequency-based Coblation® technology, and is a new non-laser technology approved by the FDA specifically for the indication of wrinkle reduction.

"This unique, non-surgical technique allows us to address patients who previously may have opted for surgery too early," says Dr. Julio Gallo, North Miami Beach-based facial plastic surgeon. "For the younger patient who is beginning to notice lines and wrinkles in the forehead, around the eyes and the mouth area, this technology will give them a younger appearance without having to undergo surgery."

The Visage Coblation technology utilizes radio frequency energy to heat the deeper layer of skin causing the collagen to immediately contract. The collagen then gradually tightens, lifting the skin over time. The Visage Coblation also removes the superficial layers of skin with just enough thermal heat to achieve significant improvement in wrinkles. Such lifting and smoothing results were previously available only through invasive procedures or utilizing lasers. The Visage Coblation is NOT a laser and allows skin to heal faster with less redness and discomfort. Because the radiofrequency energy of the Visage Coblation is in constant contact with normal saline solution, temperatures do not exceed 70 to 90 degrees C, whereas laser temperatures can reach upwards of 200 to 600 degrees C.

"This unique approach to wrinkle removal requires only one treatment, and is much more aggressive than microdermabrasion or laser skin rejuvenation, explains Dr. Gallo. "The patient's face may be red or minimally swollen for a about a week, yet this is in stark contrast to traditional treatments, which can sideline patients for up to a month."

ABOUT JULIO GALLO, MD, F.A.C.S

Julio F. Gallo, M.D., specializes in facial plastic surgery. He is board certified by the American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and by the American Board of Otolaryngology.

Dr. Gallo is a graduate of the University of Chicago—Pritzker School of Medicine. He completed both an internship in general surgery and his residency in otolaryngology/head and neck surgery at Jackson Memorial Hospital at the University of Miami. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Miami in 1985, graduating summa cum laude in biology/religion.

Dr. Gallo has published many articles in medical journals and frequently presents lectures at medical symposiums. His training included experience with laser techniques, endoscopic facial plastic surgery, and other minimally invasive procedures. He is trained in laser surgery for the elimination of wrinkles and vascular blemishes, as well as scar removal. Dr. Gallo also has extensive experience in reconstructing defects left after the removal of skin cancers.

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