Ten Years of VivaScope® in Europe: The Confocal Success Story Continues

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Optical biopsy in real time, skin analysis on living tissue without pathological specimen: Only ten years ago, a method offering such possibilities in everyday practice was considered a matter for the future. Back then, laser scanning microscopy was primarily used in the field of research. Yet numerous dermatology practices and clinics have been using MAVIG’s innovative VivaScope® devices since 2007, while CLSM is considered a safe, precise and tried and tested method in Germany as well as globally, particularly in the field of skin cancer diagnosis. The VivaScope 1500, is the most frequently used confocal laser scanning microscope to analyze human skin cells [in vivo]¹, was moreover awarded Product of the Year from German journal Aesthetic Dermatology in 2013².

In Germany, confocal laser scanning microscopy (CLSM) has been performed in dermatological practice and within the framework of medical research for ten years. The method has been tried and tested worldwide for more than a decade as well: 200 devices are currently used across Europe and more than 550 throughout the world. Due to continuous development and improvement of the systems, this secure and renowned method has long since been established as an indispensable part of diagnostics in many modern and well-equipped dermatology practices, particularly for the evaluation of skin changes or within the framework of correct diagnosis if skin cancer is suspected. Germany is a leader regarding the practical use of VivaScope devices, while the “confocalist” family continues to grow: 20 dermatology practices and eight clinics are already using VivaScopes in their everyday life.

VivaScope: Diversity, Precision and Quality in Everyday Practice

Confocalists are enthusiastic about the technology and wide range of applications provided by imaging techniques in the field of dermatology. “The fascinating thing about CLSM is the possibility to depict the smallest cellular details. Thus, the diagnosis of skin tumors including many other diseases can be made in a bloodless fashion and without causing any pain for the patient. Unnecessary biopsies can mostly be avoided. Moreover, the examination can be straightforwardly integrated into everyday practice so that CLSM has become an integral part of my daily routine,” reports Dr. Martina Ulrich, Berlin. Dr. Wolf-Dieter Weidenmann from Stuttgart knows that the acquisition of this method also has economical benefits and additionally contributes to patient loyalty: “I opted for this acquisition seven years ago, when it was still considered to be unproven. Today, however, this method is essential for any modern practice focusing on the diagnosis of skin tumors.” Dr. Peter Dorittke (Mönchengladbach) adds: “We have been working with the VivaScope for two and a half years every day. For us, it features an indispensable and reliable instrument which ensures patient loyalty.” This is also confirmed by
Dr. Anne Hundgeburth from Cologne: “We have been able to significantly improve the quality of our diagnostic work for early detection of skin cancer and are glad that we were able to spare many patients from surgery.”

Numerous scientific studies\(^3,4,5\), as well as the AWMF guideline\(^6\) released in 2011, recommending VivaScope devices and describing their use in detail, have proven that CLSM is a secure method for everyday application, providing high sensitivity and specificity in melanoma diagnosis.

Up to now, more than 460 publications regarding CLSM have been released. The corresponding abstracts are compiled on [www.vivascope-pub.com](http://www.vivascope-pub.com).

**Development Continues: Modular Systems and Intelligent IT Solutions**

The continuous development of CLSM is a feature that users also appreciate. Today, a comprehensive diagnosis is provided by a single source. Standardized whole-body scans (VivaMap\(^\text{TM}\)), video dermoscopic images (VivaCam\(^\text{®}\)) and confocal images (VivaScope 1500 and VivaScope 3000) in cellular resolution enable comprehensive examination of the entire skin from the epidermis to the upper dermis – the entire “imaging chain” can be covered. The latest feature allows combining VivaScope imaging systems with VivaLAN\(^\text{TM}\), an intelligent and individual IT solution. A VivaLAN server is used to centrally archive all VivaScope images so that they can be called up from each VivaScope PC and workstation computer via the intranet of the user. CLSM continues to be on the move and will also meet the future requirements of dermatologists who are passionate about their area of expertise and those of a modern, economic practice.

**About Confocal Laser Scanning Microscopy**

In vivo confocal laser scanning microscopy opens a “window into your skin” without being invasive. This method depicts each individual layer of the skin, from the epidermis to the upper dermis, in cellular resolution and horizontal sections. It is possible to perform an optical biopsy in real time. Users can acquire the technical know-how required for image interpretation during a free and modular training program conducted by recognized confocal specialists.

To learn more about VivaScope devices, please visit: [www.vivascope.eu](http://www.vivascope.eu).

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