

# Soprano XLi Provides Hair Removal Treatments for Darker Skin Types

By Sarah Franz Wheeler, Contributing Editor



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36 year old female with PCOD and high testosterone levels before Tx



36 year old female with PCOD and high testosterone levels five months after three Soprano treatments

Photos courtesy of Pradyumna P. Vaidya, M.D.

For patients with darker skin types, the history of laser hair removal has been a painful and often dangerous procedure. Charles Mok, M.D., of Allure Medical Spa in Shelby Township, Mich., explained, "Traditionally laser hair removal is challenging for people with ethnic or tanned skin because the melanin interferes and competes with pigment in the hair follicle, creating a risk of burning the patient."

In addition to discomfort, hypo or hyperpigmentation can occur if too much of the laser energy is absorbed by the skin rather than the hair. "In the past, tanned patients who came to aesthetic providers for hair removal, were told to wait until their tan dissipated," Dr. Mok advised. "However, the dark skin of patients due to their ethnicity cannot fade." Until the last decade, the solution for many practitioners was to use Nd:YAG lasers applied at lower energy settings, "but that just didn't work as well," Dr. Mok added.

Today, the Soprano XLi from Alma Lasers (Buffalo Grove, Ill.) provides a virtually pain free laser hair removal option for patients with ethnic or tanned skin. "When the Soprano arrived, it offered a new way of delivering energy over a longer period of time," Dr. Mok explained. "This allows the skin to relax between pulses, offering less chance of burning darker skin types."

"My practice treats a substantial population of African Americans and people of Middle Eastern decent," Dr. Mok continued. "Now, because the Soprano offers significantly much less discomfort, we can treat clients who previously found little success with other treatments."

"For the past three years, I've used the Soprano for hair removal on skin

types, I-VI, with zero complications," reported Jason Lupton, M.D., founder of San Diego Dermatology and Laser Surgery (San Diego, Calif.). "I have recently seen a huge increase in patients with these skin types and have had no cases of hypo or hyperpigmentation, and no scarring."

According to Dr. Lupton, the Soprano's patented InMotion technology means that the handpiece is constantly moving across the skin. "It moves in a sweeping motion over a gel, causing a step-wise warm-up of both the hair follicle and the surrounding inner tissue, as opposed to a quick burst of heat, which is the major cause of pain, discomfort and adverse events.

Dr. Lupton has used several brands of hair removal technology over the past decade and considers the difference in discomfort with Soprano phenomenal. "My patients report little or no discomfort, especially men who come to me for hair removal on large areas of the back, who cannot believe how virtually painless the treatments are."

"One of my patients has type VI skin," said Dr. Mok. "She had been treated for hair removal on the lip and chin at another location with another technology for nearly a year and experienced only temporary reduction. She came to me and with only a single Soprano treatment has observed a 50% reduction of hair growth."

Both Dr. Mok and Dr. Lupton value the device's ease of use and are equally confident that ancillary staff can perform treatments. Both physicians also note that treatment times are shortened since anesthesia or numbing protocols are not needed.