

Expert Opinions



Bruce Katz, M.D.

Laser, radiofrequency (RF) and ultrasound are some of the new technologies being offered in body contouring.

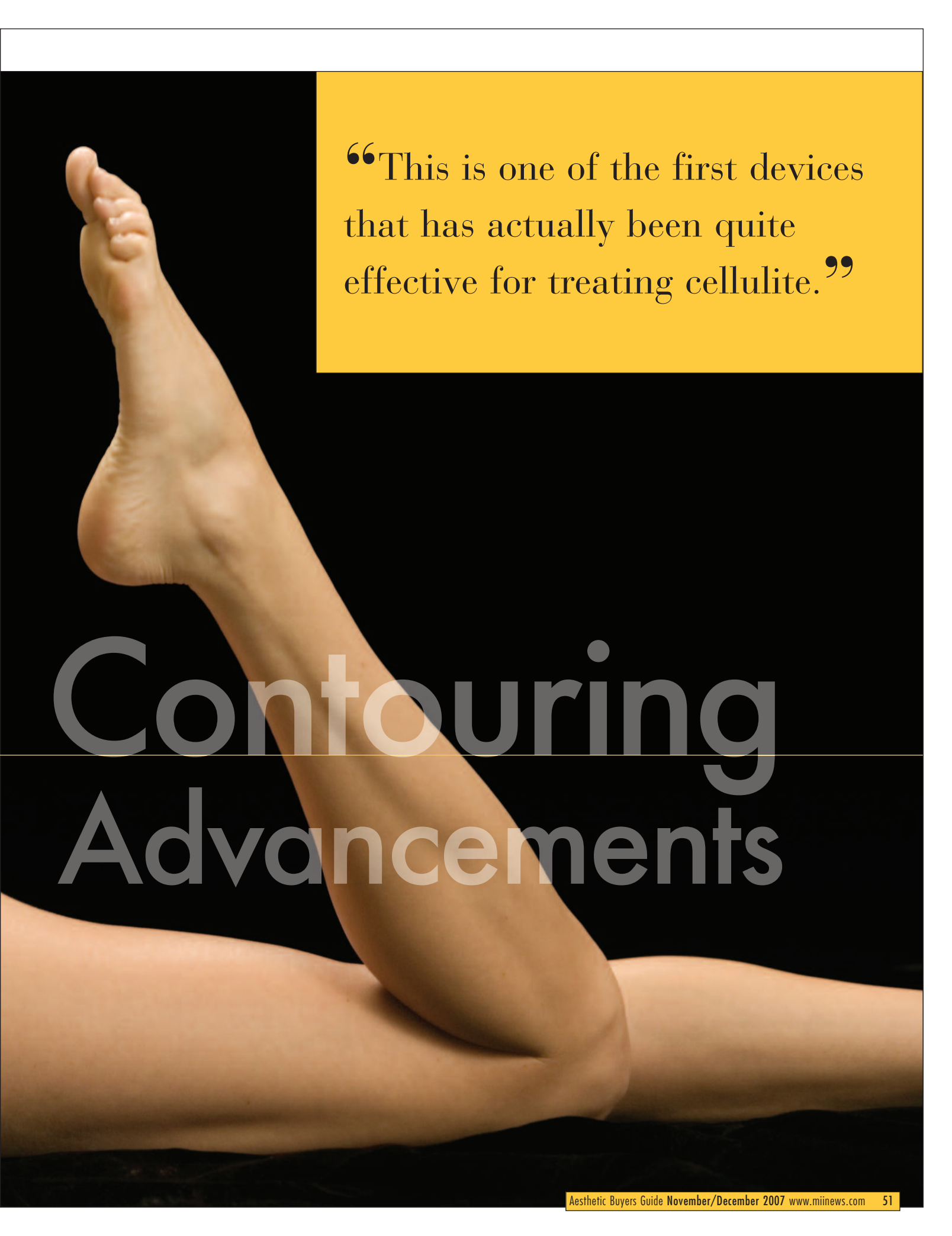
SmartLipo from Cynosure, Inc. (Westford, Mass.) uses a 1064 Nd:YAG laser to perform liposuction. "We make tiny incisions in the skin, then thread a laser fiber under the skin," said Bruce Katz, M.D., director of JUVA Skin and Laser Center in New York City, N.Y., who is one of the pioneers of this technology. "This melts the fat in a very precise manner." A huge advantage of SmartLipo over traditional liposuction "is that it tightens the skin at the same time," Dr. Katz said.

Alma Lasers' (Buffalo Grove, Ill.), Accent uses both unipolar and bi-polar RF. "This is one of the first devices that has actually been quite effective for treating cellulite," Dr. Katz noted. Other devices use either unipolar or bi-polar RF. "But with the Accent, you achieve both superficial and deep bulk heating of the tissues for increased efficacy when treating cellulite."

Both SmartLipo and the Accent are FDA approved and available. Meanwhile, in development is a device called UltraShape from Israel based UltraShape, Ltd. "UltraShape uses focused ultrasound," Dr. Katz explained. "The technology looks promising, but the big issue is that it melts the fat and leaves the fat in the body. So we are not sure how this will play out and if the device will receive FDA approval."

Body





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Contouring Advancements