Subcision of acne scars is well established as a useful procedure to release dermal scar bands, thus improving the appearance of depressed or rolling acne scars. Previously, the most common tool used to perform this procedure was an 18-gauge needle with a small slanted blade on the tip. The needle would be inserted in close proximity to the depressed acne scar and with a sweeping motion the scar bands were severed. Extensive acne scars would require multiple insertion points over the entire scarred area.

A new acne scar subcision instrument, the Taylor Liberator, is making treatment of dermal scar bands much easier and more efficient. This surgical tool is designed with three slightly blunted tips separated by two grooves, which enables the surgeon to slide the dissecting tip along the dermal / subcutaneous interface to subcise scar bands with decreased risk of puncturing the overlying dermis and epidermis. These points and grooves make the process of subcision easier as less force is required since the pointed tips slide easily through the scar tissue, and the grooves secure the scar bands so released fibers do not slip around the end of the instrument.

This novel tool has been researched and perfected over a period of eight years and treatment of more than 800 patients. In the early stages of design, the procedure involved two separate instruments, a blunt tip was used first, followed by a notched tip to release all of the scar bands. The Taylor Liberator allows this process to be completed in a single step. Furthermore, it is slightly curved to accommodate the curvature of cheeks and the forehead, starting with the bevel in an up position and then rolling it to a down position to easily traverse these facial structures.

When using the Taylor Liberator the depressed areas of the rolling acne scars should be marked with a permanent marker using tangential lighting. Next the subcutaneous layer of the affected area should be filled with a solution of normal saline containing 2 mg/mL of Lidocaine in an otherwise standard Klein tumescent formula. When treating the forehead and temples, it is important not to fill the orbit with tumescent fluid.

Once application of the tumescent fluid is complete, a number 11 blade is used to create a small entry point in the sideburn area to access the cheek and temple with the subcision instrument. For treatment of the forehead a single entry point is made at the center apex just inside the hairline. It is critical to keep the tip of the instrument at the subcutaneous / dermal interface, dissecting along the base of the dermis to avoid damaging vessels or nerves.

Physicians new to this type of procedure should be fully trained to decrease the risk of cutting facial nerves or blood vessels and to avoid perforation of the buccal mucosa or other vital structures. Training is available via the Gateway Aesthetic Institute & Laser Center (Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.).

Dr. Taylor is a board certified, world-renowned dermatologist and cosmetic laser surgeon who has been in practice for over 30 years. He is a leader in the field of cosmetic laser surgery, pioneering and teaching many new techniques to over 4,000 physicians worldwide. The Taylor Liberator was recently evaluated and published in Dermatologic Surgery: Taylor, Mark B. MD; Zaleski-Larsen, Lisa DO; McGraw, Timothy A. MD. Single Session Treatment of Rolling Acne Scars Using Tumescent Anesthesia, 20% Trichloracetic Acid Extensive Subcision, and Fractional CO2 Laser. Dermatologic Surgery: January 2017 - Volume 43 - Issue - p S70–S74. If you are a physician interested in receiving more information about the Taylor Liberator and/or hands-on training visit www.gatewaylasercenter.com/training.html.
The Taylor Liberator

The best instrument for performing acne scar subcision!

The slightly blunted, 3-tip patent-pending device provides the greatest efficiency and safety when performing extensive acne scar subcision and undermining of facial skin.

Invented and perfected by Dr. Mark B. Taylor after more than 10 revisions over a period of 8 years performing more than 700 rolling acne scars subcisions.

$299 - Order online at GatewayLaserCenter.com/store.html

Hands-on and observational training available.
Contact Sharene Blake at s.blake@gatewaylasercenter.com or 801-595-1600.