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## **F.D.A. CLEARS BREAKTHROUGH, NON-SURGICAL TREATMENT OF WRINKLES**

### ***Top Facial Plastic Surgeon to Test Innovative Radio Frequency Technology***

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**New York, NY December 4, 2002** - For the first time ever, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has cleared a device proven to remove wrinkles from the brow using radio frequency technology. The non-invasive breakthrough device developed by California-based Thermage® Inc. is called the ThermaCool TC™ System, and it received clearance on November 5th for cosmetic use based on clinical data that showed it significantly smoothed skin around the eye area.

"This unique, non-surgical technique allows us to address patients who previously may have opted for surgery too early," says Dr. Russell Kridel, the Houston-based facial plastic surgeon who has been hand picked by Thermage to conduct the second phase of ThermaCool trials, this time on the rest of the face. "For the younger patient who is beginning to notice sagging in the forehead, around the eyes and around the jaw line, this technology may put off the need for a facelift."

The ThermaCool TC 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 without wounding the epidermis, or top skin layer. Such lifting and smoothing results were previously available only through invasive procedures. Although this technology doesn't necessarily take the place of a facelift for those patients with extensive extra skin, it is extremely valuable to the patient who has begun to develop wrinkles and jowling, or for the patient who has no time for recovery.

"If done properly, the ThermaCool technique should take less than two hours and there is essentially zero downtime," says Dr. Kridel, who is the past National President of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (AAFPRS). "The patient's face may be red or minimally swollen for a day, which can be easily covered with make up. This is in stark contrast to traditional facelifts, which can sideline patients for up to a month."

Dr. Kridel is among less than a dozen surgeons specifically chosen by Thermage to continue clinical tests on this revolutionary system. Dr. Kridel, who also represents his specialty in the American Medical Association House of Delegates, will be testing ThermaCool for its effectiveness in treating wrinkles and sagging skin throughout the face, not just in the forehead and eye area.

### **ABOUT RUSSELL KRIDEL, MD, F.A.C.S**

Dr. Russell Kridel is one of the nation's leading facial plastic surgeons and has pioneered several surgical techniques in cosmetic nose surgery, which are included in study guides

for young surgeons. He is known especially for his work on redoing noses that have had less than optimal results elsewhere. Dr. Kridel has also written and lectured on making face lift incisions inconspicuous. His peers have recognized him as one of the top surgeons in his field as reported in the "Best Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons," and he has been named as one of the "Top Doctors" in Houston.

He is certified by the American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, is a member of their Board of Directors and serves as a Board Examiner in Facial Plastic Surgery. He is the Senior Advisor to the Texas Society of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery and represents his specialty in the AMA House of Delegates, where he sits on the Plastic Surgery Section Council. Dr. Kridel was the National President of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (AAFPRS) from 2000-2001.

Dr. Kridel has had more than 50 articles and papers published in major peer-reviewed scientific periodicals including The AMA Archives of Facial Plastic Surgery, the Annals of Plastic Surgery, the AMA Archives of Otolaryngology and Facial Plastic Clinics of North America.

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