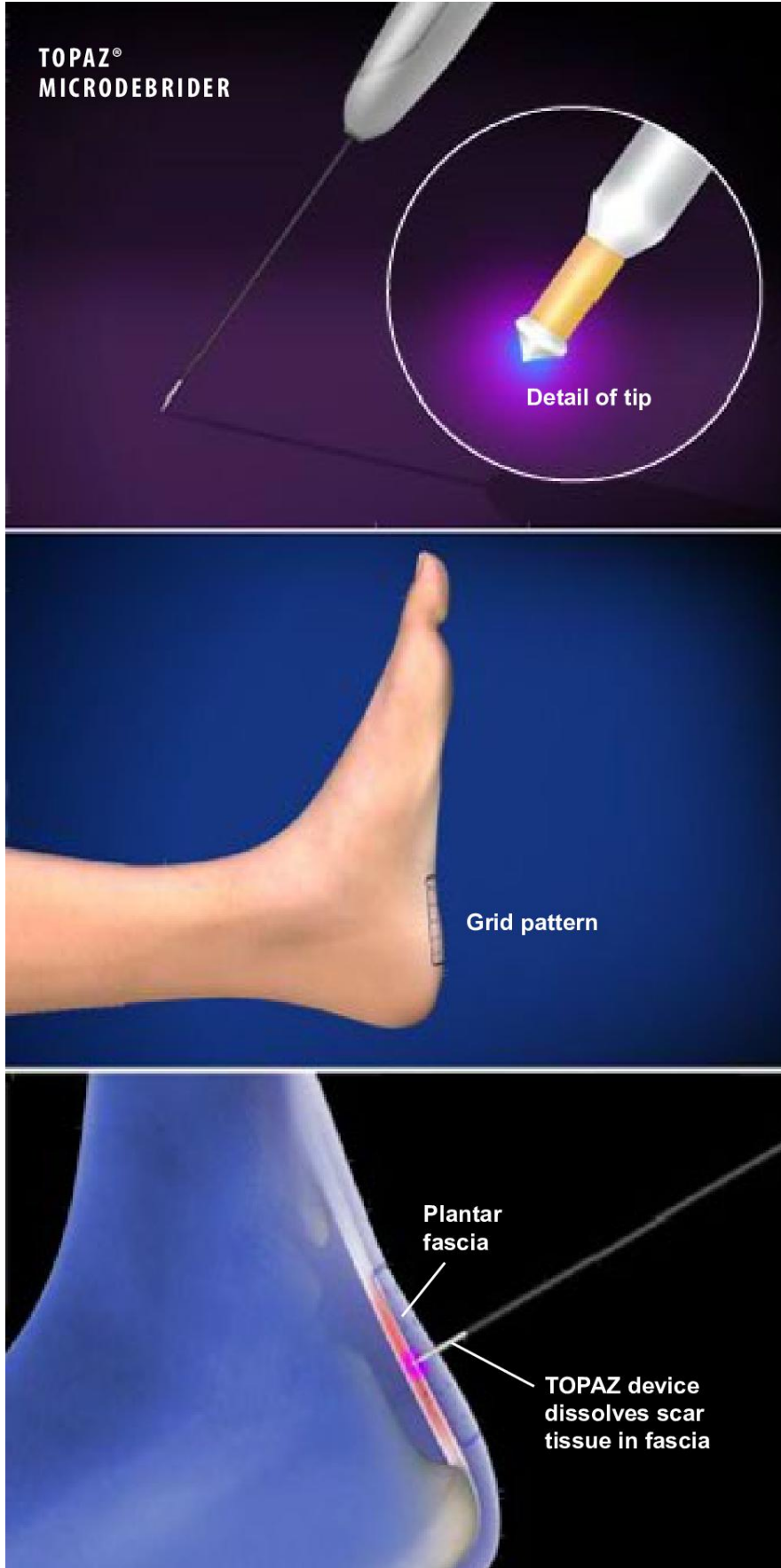




Radiofrequency Treatment for Plantar Fasciitis (TOPAZ® Coblation®)



Overview

During this procedure, the surgeon uses a radiofrequency device called a TOPAZ microdebrider to break up scar tissue in a painfully-inflamed plantar fascia (a band of tissue at the bottom of the foot). The coblation procedure can be performed as a minimally-invasive procedure through the skin, or it can be performed as part of an open surgical procedure. This animation will show the minimally-invasive technique.

Preparation

In preparation for the procedure, the patient is positioned and local anesthesia is administered. The surgeon draws a grid pattern on the bottom of the foot, marking a series of spots that will be treated.

Coblation

At each of these spots, the surgeon carefully inserts the TOPAZ device through the skin and guides it down to the plantar fascia. When activated, the device emits radiofrequency waves that dissolve inflamed scar tissue within the fascia. By dissolving this thickened tissue, the surgeon creates a new injury, but the new injury will be allowed to heal under controlled circumstances.

End of Procedure

When the procedure is complete, the foot is bandaged. Some patients may be allowed to bear weight on the foot immediately, others may be placed in a cast or splint for two to four weeks. Over time, new, healthy tissue will develop in the plantar fascia, improving mobility and reducing pain in the foot.