

Laser Tattoo Removal Patient Information & Instructions

Ideally, laser tattoo removal will remove all evidence of the tattoo color and image, leaving the skin as it was prior to the placement of the tattoo. While we always strive for this outcome and use the most advanced laser technology available to achieve an optimal result, perfection may not occur. There is no way to predict how each individual will respond.

We can only ESTIMATE the number of treatments it will take to remove the tattoo. Most amateur or “home-made” tattoos require fewer treatments. Professional tattoos done with deeper injections and heavier inks tend to be more variable in their response and require more treatments. Results also depend on where the tattoo is on the body. Generally, the closer to the heart, the less treatment needed.

Avoid all tanning methods for 4 weeks before and 4 weeks following treatment. Treatment of tanned skin can cause pigment issues and reduce the effectiveness of treatment.

Ice can be applied prior to and after treatment to help ease discomfort.

With each treatment, it is normal to experience redness, bruising, swelling, blistering and crusting. It is rare that a wound infection will occur. Do not purposefully “pop” a blister or pick at the wound. Irregular pigmentation and mild texture changes can occur as a result of laser treatment, however these changes return to “normal” after a couple of months. Scarring due to the laser itself is rare. Usually, scarring is caused by the tattoo application. Once the ink is removed, the scar itself may become more apparent.

After laser treatments, it is imperative that you protect the wound as you would any minor burn for a few days. Keeping the area clean and dry is important. A soft, breathable dressing (such as gauze) to cover the area may help to protect the treatment area and minimize further injury. Avoid soaking the treated area (i.e. Hot tubs, pedicures) until skin is healed. Most patients are able to resume normal activity and work the same day as treatment. Showering and bathing are not a problem; however, sun exposure to the treated area should be avoided. If blistering occurs, you may apply a small amount of Aquaphor for 3-7 days. It is very important that you follow our instructions carefully, especially regarding wound care.