

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 everyone will respond.

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.

Avoid treatments that may irritate the skin for 1-2 weeks prior to treatment (waxing, hair removal creams, etc.)

Ice can be applied prior to and after treatment to help ease discomfort. Non-aspirin over-the-counter pain drugs such as acetaminophen should be taken for discomfort before and/or after the laser treatment.

With each treatment, it is normal to experience redness, bruising, swelling, blistering, crusting and/or scabbing. Scabbing is expected and may last 7-14 days. 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 because 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, avoid skin irritants (products containing tretinoin, retinol, benzoyl peroxide, glycolic/salicylic acids, astringents, etc.) until the skin is fully healed and all crusting has resolved.

It is imperative that you protect the wound as you would any minor burn for a few days. Applying Aquaphor and keeping the area clean and dry is important. A soft, breathable dressing (such as non-stick gauze) to cover the area may help to protect the treatment area and minimize further injury. The dressing should be changed at least daily. Avoid soaking the treated area (i.e. Hot tubs, pedicures) until skin is healed. Most patients can resume normal activity and work the same day as treatment. Showering and bathing are not a problem. It is very important that you follow our instructions carefully, especially regarding wound care.

Contact our office if any of the following occur: excessive bleeding, increased redness or swelling, uncomfortable blisters, yellow or green drainage, persistent pain for more than 24 hours, or fever.