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Instructions

TATTOO REMOVAL – LASER

Tattoo removal can be performed by Laser treatment, dermabrasion or by direct excision. These instructions are for Laser tattoo removal. For direct excision or dermabrasion see separate instruction sheet.

Laser tattoo removal can be performed in the office under local anesthesia.

There is no down time for this procedure. Return to social and employment activities within hours.

You are not a candidate for Laser tattoo removal if you have any of the following:

You have a history of abnormal response to sunlight.

You use photosensitizing medications or drugs.

You have used Isotretinoin (Accutane) within the last 6-12 months.

You are pregnant.

You use blood thinner or heavy aspirin use.

You have active infection or weakened immune systems.

You have a suntan, tanned skin, or are currently using self-tanner.

You have a history of keloid scar formation.

You are Fitzpatrick Skin Type VI.

Photographs

Photographs will be taken prior to each treatment to document your progress. Pictures are useful in demonstrating effectiveness of the treatment(s).

Instructions

Performing a test spot is often necessary before performing treatment of the entire tattoo.

Eye protection must be worn at all times during the treatment.

If you arrive for your treatment with a suntan or with self-tanner on your skin, your treatment will be canceled for safety purposes.

Complications

Complications, though rare, can occur. You must follow the aftercare instructions specifically, as failure to do so may increase the potential for complications.

Complications include:

Scarring can occur following a Laser procedure.

Histamine/Hives: some patients develop raised Urticaria similar to hives. This irritation usually subsides in a few hours.
Pigmentary changes: hyperpigmentation or hypopigmentation may occur. There is a higher risk in darker skin types.
Purplish bruising, called Purpura, may occur in the treated. These bruises May last for 1-2 weeks.

Protect the treated area from the sun until all normal skin color has returned.

What To Expect

Redness and mild skin swelling will last for several hours after the treatment. You may have blistering for several days.
You will experience a stinging sensation after the local anesthesia has worn off. Take pain medication and any other pain medications as directed.
Cool compresses or ice packs may provide some comfort after treatment. Always use a strong sunscreen and avoid prolonged exposure to the sun. If sun exposure is unavoidable, use sunscreen with SPF 30 or greater.

Follow-Up Care

Interval – Treatments are performed 3-6 weeks apart. 5 or more treatments may be required and vary according to the color(s) of the tattoo and the depth of the pigment.

When To Call

If redness, blistering or bruising persist after 1-2 weeks.
If you have any side effects to the treatment, such as severe rash, nausea, headache, or vomiting.
If you have severe or increased pain not relieved by medication.
If you have any side effects to the treatment or medications, such as rash, nausea, headache, vomiting.
If you have an oral temperature over 100.4 degrees.
If you have any yellowish or greenish drainage from the area associated with a foul odor.
If you have bleeding in the treated area that is difficult to control with light pressure.
If you notice any skin lesions or cold sores on the treated or surrounding skin or mucosal surfaces.
If you have loss of feeling or motion.

For Medical Questions, Please Call:

(615) 921-2100 Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM-5:00 PM and Fridays 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. After hours and on weekends, the answering service will contact Dr. Wendel or the plastic surgeon on call.