



Post Care For Laser Tattoo Removal

POST:

- » Immediately after treatment there may be erythema (redness) and edema (swelling) at the treatment site. This usually lasts 2 hours or longer. The erythema may last up to 10 days. The treatment area may feel like a sunburn for a few hours after the treatment, but it will subside.
- » Apply ice as needed, on and off for the next 24 hours.
- » Do not tan the area. Avoid sun exposure to avoid hypo-pigmentation and hyper-pigmentation.
- » Please apply sunscreen on the area, even if it is covered by clothing. Sun will travel through your shirt or pants. The use of sunscreen everyday on the area will also help the ink absorb and help with itching.
- » Leave dressing on for 24 - 48 hours.
- » When you shower, use luke warm water.
- » Keep tattoo moist for at least 3 days after treatment with vaniply ointment. Reapply as needed.
- » Some scabbing, light bleeding and itching may occur.
- » Do not pop blisters. If you do blister, apply vaniply ointment until the blisters have popped naturally.
- » No heat, such as saunas, steam rooms, Jacuzzis, extremely hot showers, or strenuous activities. No prolonged heat for a minimum of 48 hours post treatment.
- » It takes 2 weeks for your body to absorb whatever amount of ink that has been broken up in this treatment.
- » It may take a few treatments before you see a difference.
- » If you have any changes in your health, or medications, please let your laser technician know.
- » Remember, not all tattoos will clear 100%. Your tattoo may just fade.
- » Please call your primary care physician if an infection develops.
- » Please let your technician know if you have problems post laser with blisters or anything else.
- » If you have any questions at all regarding your tattoo removal process, please do not hesitate to call us at 701.780.6623.
- » REMEMBER: Drink lots of water!

Frequently Asked Questions Tattoo Removal

HOW DOES TATTOO REMOVAL WORK?

The skin has three layers: the epidermis or outer layer, the dermis or middle layer and the hypodermis or bottom layer. When you receive a tattoo, the ink is placed in the dermis. Lasers send energy through the epidermis with enough energy and heat to fragment or break up the ink in the dermis.

THEN WHAT HAPPENS?

When the ink breaks in small enough particles, it is able to penetrate through the hypodermis. Once through the hypodermis, it is seen by your body as a foreign object. Macrophages, large cells that remove foreign bodies, encapsulate the ink and it is eliminated from the body by the lymphatic system.

The healthier your immune system, the better the results. Studies have shown that those who exercise regularly and drink large amounts of water see a more positive result. Those who smoke or ingest other toxins tend to need more treatments over a longer period of time.

WHEN ASSESSING THE REMOVAL PROCESS, WHAT ARE THE FACTORS?

There are a number of factors that will determine and ultimate result of the procedure. These include:

- » The size of the tattoo
- » The location of the tattoo
- » The depth of the ink
- » The density of the ink
- » The colors of the tattoo
- » The type of ink
- » The health of your immune system

HOW LONG WILL EACH SESSION OF TREATMENT TAKE?

The removal process is actually very fast, but the time of each session will ultimately be determined on the size of the tattoo being removed. Very large tattoos will be removed in sections, with time in between sessions, to allow the body to eliminate the ink most efficiently.

HOW MANY SESSIONS WILL I NEED?

On average, it takes 6-12 sessions to remove a tattoo. However, this is only an average and it may be more or it may be less, depending on the tattoo and your body. As stated above, the healthier you are (drinking water and exercising, abstain from smoking), the most likely you are to get a good result in a short period of time.

WHICH COLORS FADE THE FASTEST?

Black doesn't seem to fade and is the first color we target with the laser. That being said, there are some

times when the black also includes greens and purples to make the color richer (we won't know this until we begin the process of removing the black). In general, colored tattoos take more treatments than a tattoo which contains only black.

WILL IT GO AWAY 100%?

There are over 250 different types of tattoo inks, non of which are regulated by the FDA. In addition, everybody's immune system is different. In many cases we can remove a tattoo 100% (Though this is not guaranteed). If, for whatever reason it cannot be 100% removed, it will fade. At this point, you could get another tattoo placed over the faded tattoo or use makeup to cover it up.

DOES IT HURT?

Yes. Everyone has a different pain tolerance. We offer numbing cream to help with the pain. You will come 1 hour before your appointment. We will apply the cream and you are free to stick around or come back. Numbing cream is free of charge.

HOW DO I CARE FOR IT AFTER?

For some time after the session, the area may feel as if it is sunburned. Ice, on and off, can help with this discomfort. You will be given full set of after-care instructions when your session is complete.

CAN YOU REMOVE A PORTION OF MY TATTOO?

Yes. We can cover any areas you wish to keep, only removing what you want removed.

WILL I SEE A DIFFERENCE AFTER MY FIRST TREATMENT?

It takes about 2 weeks for the body to absorb the ink. Some people see some difference after the first session, though many do not. It will be working, however it may take a few sessions to start seeing the results.

HOW LONG WILL I HAVE TO WAIT BETWEEN EACH TREATMENTS?

We recommend 8-12 weeks. This will allow your body to absorb and eliminate the ink and your skin to rest before the next treatment.

WHAT IF I AM TAN?

We know being tan looks great, but if the area around your tattoo is tan, you run the risk of hypo (too little or hyper (too much) pigmentation. If you come in tan, you may be asked to wait until your tan has faded before we will do the procedure.