



Since their original introduction in 1969 many different lasers have been used for medical tattoo removal. Apple Wellness Medical uses both a combination of Nd:Yag lasers and Alexandrite lasers to perform this revolutionary procedure. Depending on the circumstances of each patient, your doctor will choose the specific combinations of lasers they feel will work best for your tattoo.

Ideally, laser tattoo removal will remove all evidence of the tattoo colour and image, leaving the skin as it was before the tattoo was placed, i.e. "normal", with no mark whatsoever. While we are always strive for this outcome, and use the most advanced laser technology available to achieve an optimal result, this may not always occur.

After the tattoo is placed some scar tissue can form in the skin. Also, any previous attempts of tattoo removal can leave markings in the skin, and years of sun exposure on the tattooed skin may alter the skin's appearance. These changes may not be apparent while the colour of the tattoo is still present, but once the tattoo colour is gone, some of these minor variations in texture, colour, scaliness etc.. can become more noticeable and make the tattooed area appear different from the surrounding skin. Generally, the treated skin looks much like the surrounding normal skin after the laser procedure however, this **cannot be guaranteed** and, altered skin appearance is one of the risks in doing the procedure.

We can only **ESTIMATE** the number of treatments it will take to completely remove the tattoo. This is because of many factors but n which they are applied to the skin. The amount of ink used can also vary from tattoo artist to tattoo artist and the ability of your immune system to remove the ink varies greatly from person to person. As a result of these many issues we cannot be absolutely certain how your particular tattoo will respond. Most amateur or home made tattoos will generally require about 3 to 8 laser treatments. Professional tattoos and those done with certain colours tend to average about 4 to 10 laser treatments. Some stubborn inks and colours will require even more treatments.

While the most noticeable lightening of the tattoo usually occurs after the first treatment, continuing lightening occurs with each subsequent treatment, although it may not be as easily seen. Before and After photos have been taken of thousands of patients demonstrating that every tattoo will fade to some degree after every treatment.

Before starting every treatment session, we photograph the tattoo so that we can accurately monitor the progress of the treatment and give you a more accurate estimate of how many more treatments will be required. The decision to continue is always made jointly with you and made with a clear understanding of potential outcomes. Given enough time, treatment and effort, virtually all of the tattoo ink will eventually disappear.

With each treatment some redness, bruising, swelling, blistering and crusting is common, but wound infection is rare. Irregular pigmentation and mild texture changes can occur as a result of laser treatment, but these changes usually return back to "normal" over a few months. Rarely these changes are permanent but that is one of the risks with undergoing treatment.

We advise patients to protect the wound as you would any other minor burn for a few days. A dressing may help to protect the area and minimize further injury which could lead to permanent scarring. Cold compresses and over the counter analgesics like Tylenol can be taken for minor discomfort for the first few days. Most patients are able to resume normal activity the same day. Showering and bathing are usually not a problem, but sun exposure should be avoided in the treated area. This because the laser has temporarily removed the melanin in the treated area and sunburn is much more likely unless the area is bandaged or covered up.

It is very important that you follow the instructions given to you by our medical staff especially regarding the use of any medications or specific wound care that we may recommend.

- I have read and understand to the best of my ability the consent form.
 - I have had the opportunity to discuss the possible complications and results with my medical professional and understand them clearly.
 - The possible alternatives, risks, benefits, etc. of laser treatment has been explained to me and I understand them.
 - I understand that NO absolute guarantee of any kind has been made to me, by either the medical professional or their staff regarding the procedure, the number of procedures or its final outcome.
 - I agree to cooperate to the best of my ability and to comply with the instructions and advice relative to me follow-up care.
 - I agree to the photographing of my tattoo and procedure. The Clinic may use these photographs for the purposes of patient education and marketing. I understand I will not be identifiable in these photos (except for the nature of the Tattoo itself).
- Finally, I understand that even extremely remote and extremely rare possibilities (such as death or disability) could happen but clearly the likelihood of these occurrences are very rare and can occur with any invasive medical procedure.

Patient's Signature

Date

Witness

Date

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