TATTOO REGRETS?

DO YOU REGRET GETTING A TATTOO? IS A TATTOO HOLDING YOU BACK SocialLY OR FROM GETTING A JOB?

THERE ARE MANY REASONS FOR POSSIBLY WANTING A TATTOO REMOVED. OUR CENTER IS ONE OF THE FIRST IN BOSTON TO OFFER THE NEWLY FDA APPROVED PICOSURE™ LASER TECHNOLOGY FOR REMOVING UNWANTED TATTOOS AND IT WORKS FASTER WITH BETTER RESULTS IN FEWER TREATMENTS.

New laser technology available at our Laser and Cosmetic Center

Our center offers the latest technology, PicoSure™ to safely remove tattoos using picosecond pulse, which delivers ultra-short pulse bursts of energy to the skin that is 100 times shorter than the previous nanosecond technology. The theory behind both technologies was developed here at Mass General in association with the Wellman Center for Photomedicine. This new technology shatters the ink into tiny particles that are more easily eliminated in the body.

PicoSure’s technology produces less injury to surrounding skin and even dark, stubborn blue and green inks as well as previously treated tattoos can be removed with less pain and less scarring. In addition to the PicoSure, the Mass General Dermatology Laser and Cosmetic Center has a variety of other tattoo lasers specifically designed to remove certain tattoo inks.

Fewer treatments required

Generally, removal takes a number of treatments and the actual number of treatments depends on several factors including the tattoo’s size, colors in the tattoo, depth of ink, skin color, and types and colors of ink. Most treatments range from 5 to 15 minutes.

As a comparison to previous laser technology, using the PicoSure laser typically reduces the number of visits needed to significantly clear a tattoo.

Although black ink is generally easier to remove, some professional colors, such as yellow and orange – may be more difficult to remove and may require the use of other lasers.

A consultation fee of $100 is required as it is important to spend time talking with your doctor before the procedure to ask questions regarding laser tattoo removal.

Does it hurt?

This treatment is less painful than previous laser technology to remove tattoos. Local anesthetics are typically used for laser tattoo removal to provide comfort during the procedure.

What can I expect?

One of our board-certified dermatologists will perform the procedure. Upon leaving the office after the treatment, the tattoo will be red and swollen like a bad sunburn, and can blister and scab. Wound care usually involves some cool packs the first day along with petroleum jelly every day for about one week at which time there can be some fine peeling, much like after a sunburn.

During the healing period and between treatments:

- The tattoo area must be meticulously protected from the sun since unprotected sun exposure may increase the risk of adverse pigment changes, like having the skin go lighter or darker.
- If a person has a tan at the time of treatment, the treatment will have to be postponed until the tan is gone.
- The tattoo will fade over a period of weeks; the total time depends on the size and color of the tattoo.

How much does it cost?

Costs are determined by the size and color of your tattoo. This is considered a cosmetic procedure and is not covered by medical insurance. To learn more visit: www.massgeneral.org/lasercosmetics.