

## **Tattoo Removal Pre-Care Instructions**

No recent sun exposure, tan, or use of self-tanners for a minimum of 4 weeks prior to treatment. The risk of hyper/hypo pigmentation (lightening or darkening of the skin) is greatly increased with sun exposure.

Treatment area should be clean shaven of all hair and no lotions day of.

Moderate to significant discomfort is expected. Some areas are more sensitive than others. Topical anesthetic options may be available if required/desired.

## **Tattoo Removal Post Care Instructions**

Tattoo removal is a process and will take time based upon how the tattoo was applied, what it was applied with, and your own natural healing. The body absorbs the broken-up ink and is removed through your lymphatics. This process takes 6-8 weeks.

You may experience discomfort and redness immediately after treatment. This will subside in the next 24-48 hours. Ice packs protected with a cloth may be applied as necessary to reduce soreness & swelling. Do not put ice directly on area, make sure there is a towel or cloth between the ice and your skin.

Keep treatment area covered with triple antibiotic for the first 2 days. Then you may allow the area to breath without having a bandage but continue to use triple antibiotic cream for the next 3-5 days.

Itching and scabbing is normal. Treatment area may scab but preventing the scab is best. Scabbing may last 7 to 14 days. DO NOT PICK, PEEL, OR SCRATCH the treated area as it could cause scarring or changes in the natural skin color. Removing the scab could also increase healing time.

Blisters are possible, do not pick at or pop blisters if they do occur.

Do not expose your healing skin to direct sun, tanning beds, saunas, salt water, or chlorinated pools for 2 to 4 weeks following your procedure.

You can gently wash the treated area with mild soap and water, but pat dry as soon as possible (do not rub). Do not soak your body where the area is submerged in water.

If itchiness develops and is irritating, you may apply Benadryl cream after the first week. Excessive scratching on the treated area may cause additional irritation and possible scarring. Do not use a cortisone cream.

Skin can develop temporary lightening or darkening after laser treatment. Hyperpigmentation (darkening of the skin) can be worsened with sun exposure. Hypopigmentation (lightening of the skin) usually occurs after multiple treatments. Pigment issues typically resolve with time but can be permanent.

Temporary texture changes to the skin are often noted but usually resolve with time.

Smoking can extend the time of your removal process as your white blood cells are more focused on removing nicotine from the body then the broken ink particles.

Some tattoo inks, including many lighter and skin-tone inks, may darken or change color in response to treatment.