

Midlands Laser Clinic

Laser Tattoo Removal

Useful Information

- Tattoo Removal using the QX MAX "Q" Switched LASER should only be undertaken by fully trained and qualified personnel. Please ask to see the qualifications of the users which will be displayed in the laser room.
- Tattoo removal treatment with a "Q" switched laser will produce an immediate whitening of the skin. This is due to the release of microscopic steam bubbles in your skin. This change usually lasts no more than a few minutes before it disappears and is a sign that the tattoo treatment is working.
- Once the whitening of the treated area disappears it is not unusual for the skin to become quite red, swollen and appear inflamed. This may last for several hours or even a day or two. Any discomfort is minimal and may be controlled by using standard painkillers and by placing an ice pack on the affected area. Aloe Vera gel is beneficial in reducing inflammation.
- Bleeding or blistering will occur in the treated area even when using low power levels and the severity increases when higher power levels are used as they will be throughout your course of treatment. A little pinpoint bleeding and/or blistering will heal very quickly and all this requires is a simple dry sterile dressing following the procedure.

- The treated area must be kept clean and provided this is done properly it is rare for the treated area to become infected. If this happens please contact us on 01527 832263 or on our emergency number (available 24/7) 07973 989991.
- It is important to make sure that the areas of your tattoo that have been treated are not exposed to strong ultraviolet light or sunshine after the laser procedure. We recommend the use of an SPF25-30 sun protection cream, or complete masking of the tattoo while in the sun during the whole treatment period and for a few months post treatment.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Does laser tattoo removal hurt and what should I do before treatment?** The short answer is yes, it does hurt. Most patients find laser treatment of tattoos very uncomfortable but not unbearable. Forced refrigerated air and ice packs will be used during the treatment but if the discomfort becomes too severe, either a local anaesthetic cream or a local anaesthetic injected into the area may be used. If a local anaesthetic cream is used, it must be applied liberally under an occlusive dressing 1 or 2 hours before laser tattoo removal treatment to produce optimum results.
- **What information do I need to provide prior to my treatment?** You will be asked to list all medications and drugs you may be taking before treatment on every occasion and to inform us if this changes during treatment. It is very important that you answer absolutely honestly because even over the counter herbal

remedies like St John's Wort may have a very serious effect on your photo-sensitivity. The use of non-prescription or illegal drugs such as cannabis can lead to unexpected severe blistering and/or possible scarring. Naturally anything you say to us is in complete confidence, but we must know.

- **Do you need to test my skins before undertaking the full treatment?** You must have 'a test patch' to establish whether your tattoo pigment contains iron oxide or titanium oxide. If either of these oxides is present the test patch will immediately go black and no attempt to remove the tattoo by laser treatment should be made. In such circumstances the only alternative is surgical removal of the tattoo. If you already know the chemical substance of the ink in your tattoo, please tell us.
- **Would laser tattoo removal be more painful during period?** Research has shown that ladies' pain thresholds are much reduced during menstruation and ladies are advised to bear that in mind when booking laser tattoo removal treatments or any laser treatment.
- **What are the possible complications following laser tattoo removal treatment?** The most common complication following laser tattoo removal is a reactive increase or decrease in skin pigment resulting in a lightening or darkening of the skin in the affected area. This decreased or increased pigmentation, which is more likely to happen in Asian people or those who tan easily, usually lasts a relatively short time (usually 3 or 4 months) before it disappears naturally but you must be aware, sometimes it will become permanent.

- Blistering is very common and it can be quite severe. Most patients will experience some blisters and/or some light bleeding during the course of a laser tattoo removal treatment and this should be accepted as completely normal. In fact, if you do not see even a small blister during the course of treatment it probably means you are not being treated at high enough power levels and the course will last much longer and cost far more than it needs to. Blistering is superficial and does not usually have any harmful or permanent consequences but in most cases does result in minor scarring. Keloid and other forms of scarring are rare but nevertheless they are a risk that you must understand and accept prior to treatment commencing. If you do not, do not have laser treatment.