

## *Your Treatment with Laser Tattoo Removal*

In our office we have multiple advanced lasers. For tattoo removal one of the lasers we use is a QS Nd Yag laser that is made specifically for that purpose and so does a much better and faster job of that. This laser applies a very high power in an extremely short time to break up the tattoo particles so your body can more easily remove them. This causes the tattoo to fade gradually with each treatment. This treatment generally leaves less scar than other methods, and in fact usually with our treatment there is little or no scar.

### **How you can help to get best results** (preparation for treatments):

1. We want to help the laser light to get through most easily. So if you have a lot of hair over the area of the tattoo, it's more efficient if you shave it before coming in. Also please thoroughly remove any cosmetics from the area to be treated and don't go out of your way to get more tan.
2. As you return for your treatments we will ask you about your prior treatment and how that went so we can best tailor therapy for you.
3. With treatment there can be discomfort. We often use anesthetics to help avoid or minimize that.

After treatment there will often be mild redness or swelling for a few hours or days. If there are crusts please apply an antibiotic ointment to help speed healing. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call us.

The number of treatments needed and the response to treatment depend on the size, color, depth, location, age, type of pigment and amount of pigment in your tattoo. That's why we can't tell for sure how many treatments will be needed. If you have a tattoo that is a very dark one then please note that it'll be harder for you to see improvement at first because even when we remove ½ of the pigment, it will still be dark. So the more pigment you start off with, the more treatments it takes to remove it.

We find it's best to arrange multiple treatments at one to two month intervals. Generally the tattoo fades gradually with successive treatments as more pigment is removed. So it's important to return for appointments as scheduled (unless you're deployed, etc.).

But we need to remember a few things: There can be residual tattoo pigment, especially colored pigment. As with any medical procedure, we can't guarantee a result or improvement. The laser may remove hair in the area being treated, sometimes permanently. Even though we try very hard to minimize it, there can be problems with any kind of procedure, including pigment changes and scars. This treatment is cosmetic and is not covered by insurance.

For best effect you should schedule your treatments at about 4-6 week intervals. Let's work together so your treatment runs well and conveniently.

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*3031 Williams Road  
Columbus, GA 31909  
(706) 323-1000  
AdvancedDermatologyCenter.com*