

## Tattoo Removal

Decorative tattoos have a history dating back at least 5000 years. The desire to remove them has probably existed for just as long. Early attempts to remove tattoos have had less than desirable results. The use of dermabrasion, saltabrasion, and Argon or CO2 lasers have left behind scars in place of the tattoo. The advent of Q-Switched lasers has permitted the removal of most tattoo inks with a very low risk of scarring. The MedLite® Q-Switched Nd: YAG laser is the laser of choice in this class of lasers. The MedLite® can significantly lighten or remove a wide variety of tattoo inks.



Lately, the decision to obtain a tattoo has become increasingly popular, and so has the decision to remove them! An estimated 20 million Americans have tattoos and many of them now feel that having a tattoo does not fit their new image. Those remorseful about their tattoos are consulting with cosmetic laser physicians to determine if the removal of their tattoo is possible. Today's advanced laser technology provides the means for your tattoo to be removed safely and quickly and, in most cases, without leaving a scar.

### How does treatment work?

Today, cosmetic medical lasers designed to eradicate tattoos range from a single wavelength of light to a broad spectrum of light, the varieties of which are intended to obliterate the ink in the tattoo without damaging the skin. Certain colors of light are absorbed by specific corresponding colors of the tattoo ink. The light energy vaporizes or fragments the ink particles. Your body then absorbs these ink fragments naturally and the color fades over the next couple of weeks. This treatment is very similar to the methods used for years to treat birthmarks.

## **What are other removal options?**

Laser tattoo removal is the safest, quickest, and is most likely to leave your skin intact following treatment. Other treatment options are surgical excision, chemical peel and traditional dermabrasion. These various treatment options are invasive treatment methods and often result in scarring.

## **What are treatments like?**

First, the area to be treated is cleaned. Emitting laser or pulsed light, the laser hand device glides over the surface of the tattoo. The size and color of the tattoo determine the length of treatment time. A tattoo roughly the size of a quarter may take approximately 3 to 5 minutes to treat. Some patients request a topical anesthetic cream to be applied prior to treatment, minimizing the stinging effect of the laser or intense light. Many patients tolerate treatment without topical anesthetic, and report the treatment as feeling similar to no more than numerous rubber band snaps. Finally, an ointment and protective dressing are applied to keep the area moist.

## **How many treatments are required?**

Size, color, location, and the age of the tattoo determine the number of treatments necessary to effectively complete removal. During the consultation, the tattoo you want treated will be examined and any questions you have will be answered. Be sure to contact your physician if you experience side effects not described during your consultation.

## **What results can I expect?**

The results and appearance of the tattoo vary from patient to patient. After each treatment session you will see the tattoo become lighter. Due to the various levels of professionalism and types of inks used in tattooing, the results and number of treatments may vary. Typically, multiple treatments will be required and are scheduled 4 to 8 weeks apart.

## About Skin & Laser Surgery Center

Under the direction of Dr. Amir A. Bajoghli, Skin & Laser Surgery Center PC specializes in Laser & Dermatologic Surgery as well as Mohs Micrographic Surgery. Skin & Laser Surgery Center treats patients for all skin care concerns, including skin cancer surgery, cosmetic dermatology, sclerotherapy, laser peels, laser hair removal, hyperhidrosis, rosacea, and acne treatments.

## Our Office Locations

Skin & Laser Surgery Center provides a full range of services at our four facilities located throughout the Greater Washington area.

### Tysons Corner, VA

8130 Boone Blvd.  
Suite 340  
Vienna, VA 22182  
(703) 893-1114

### Stafford, VA

(800) 264-2653  
125 Hospital Center Blvd.  
Suite 105  
Stafford, VA 22554

### Woodbridge, VA

2200 Opitz Blvd.  
Suite 245  
Woodbridge, VA 22191  
(703) 492-4140

### Washington, DC

1120 19th N.W.  
Suite 250  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 955-6995  
MOHS Only

## Contact Us

Do you have a question about The Skin & Laser Surgery Center or our services? Please feel free to contact us at (703) 893-1114 or use one of the following links below.

### Appointment Requests

Phone - (703) 893-1114

Web - <http://bderm.com/patients/appointment/>

### Customer Feedback

Phone - (703) 893-1114

Web - <http://bderm.com/contact/feedback/>

### Billing Questions

Phone - (703) 492-4140 x126

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