

Laser Tattoo Removal

Why do we use the VersaPulse® laser for tattoo removal?

This laser is the gold standard and provides amazing results. It offers 3 different wavelengths (qs1064nm, qs755nm, qs532nm) to target all colors of tattoo ink.

As with many cosmetic procedures, the number of treatments needed to lighten the tattoo will vary based on many factors:

- Age and location of the tattoo
- Depth and color of the ink
- Patient's skin type (natural color of the skin)
- The strength of the patient's immune system
- The laser technician's knowledge and experience

These factors, combined, all play a major role in the tattoo removal process.

FAQ's about the VersaPulse® Laser

The word LASER is an acronym for **L**ight **A**mplification by the **S**timulated **E**mission of **R**adiation. Today's advanced laser technology allows us to safely and effectively treat many benign skin lesions, on an out-patient basis.

How does the VersaPulse® Laser remove a tattoo?

The VersaPulse® laser utilizes a process called Selective Photothermolysis. The word photothermolysis comes from three Greek root words: "photo" meaning light; "thermo" meaning heat; and "lysis" meaning destruction. Therefore, Selective photothermolysis refers to the precise targeting of a structure or tissue by using a specific wavelength of light. The energy directed into the target area produces sufficient heat to damage the target, allowing the surrounding areas to remain relatively undamaged.

The VersaPulse® laser removes a tattoo by using one of its three specific wavelengths of light (energy) which is attracted to and absorbed by a specific tattoo-ink's color underneath the skin. The absorption of this energy causes the ink to heat-up and it is, literally, fragmented into microscopic particles that are, over a period of time, slowly taken away by the immune system's macrophages (scavenger cells) to the lymphatic system. This immune response is the mechanism that actually removes the tattoo! More simply put: the VersaPulse® laser safely obliterates the ink, and the body's immune system safely removes the tattoo.

How many laser treatments are required to remove a tattoo?

This depends on several factors such as: size, location, depth, color, and the frequency in which the tattoo is treated. Treatments should be placed 4 to 8 weeks apart to allow your body to remove the maximum amount of targeted ink particles. In between treatments, your body will continue to absorb the fragmented ink and the tattoo fades.

On average, a tattoo can be removed in 5 to 20 sessions depending on the factors mentioned above. Please note: the removal of any tattoo is a slow process by which your body's immune system does the work. It will take months for your body to do this work effectively. It is our goal to remove your tattoo in a medically sound and safe manner. We tailor each treatment session to minimize the risk of scarring and undesirable skin-pigment changes while maximizing your results.

Are VersaPulse® Laser treatments safe?

VersaPulse® lasers have been used successfully in thousands of tattoo removal treatments. When performed by a trained physician or laser specialist, the VersaPulse® treatments are one of the safest and most effective treatments available to date.

Do VersaPulse® laser tattoo removal treatments hurt?

Most patients say the treatments are much more intense than getting the tattoo. Stinging, like the snap of a rubber band on the skin can be expected. Post treatment sensations are similar to a mild feeling of sunburn. Post-operatively, the tattoo reacts similarly to when it was originally applied into the skin — punctate bleeding, scabbing, and soreness can be expected. Our staff will educate you on how to safely manage the wound by using effective skin emollients, ointments, and sterile bandages. You must take care of your treated tattoo, as directed by our physicians, to obtain the best outcome for a successful removal. Most treatments do not require anesthetics, though some patients feel more comfortable with local numbing agents such as: ice; topical numbing cream (must be applied with physician supervision 30 minutes prior to laser treatment) and/or local anesthesia — which is injected under and around the treatment site by our physician team.

What results can you expect?

Most patients will see improvement in the appearance of their tattoo after the first treatment. Sometimes this improvement can be dramatic, and sometimes it can be subtle. Remember that it takes time for the immune system to fully absorb the treated ink. We urge you to be patient and to see the treatments through. We capture and utilize digital photos to measure your tattoo's progress prior to each treatment. However, as with any surgical procedure, there is always a possibility that only minor changes will occur, and in rare cases, there is no response.