

# LASER TATTOO REMOVAL

## POST CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Immediately following your laser treatment, the treated area will appear whitish-gray or red in color. Pinpoint bleeding may occur. The treated area may have some mild swelling and the surrounding skin may also appear red and irritated. The discoloration of the tattoo will change and lighten over a period of 7-10 days as the treatment area heals. The treated skin must be treated delicately during this time.

Please keep the dressing that we have applied on for as long as you can. If the corners of the bandage begin to peel up you may trim them down. When you remove the bandage cleanse the tattoo with warm water and a mild soap. Pat the area dry and apply another dressing (either duoderm or ointment and tegaderm). Your clinician will help you decide which dressing is appropriate for your tattoo. During the healing process please keep the area treated clean and avoid direct sun exposure. If you notice any signs of infection (prolonged redness, increased discomfort, or pus) please do not hesitate to call the office for further assistance.

### Recommendations:

- Do not rub, scratch, or pick at the treated area
- Avoid pressure from tight clothes.
- Avoid rubbing the treated area with a washcloth. Gently pat the area dry after washing.
- Avoid contact sports or excessive sweating during the healing period.

If you experience discomfort or stinging after the treatment this will usually last for no more than a few hours. To relieve this discomfort you may do any of the following:

- Wrap ice in a soft cloth and gently apply to the treatment area.
- Over-the-counter Tylenol and / or Advil can be taken as directed for pain or discomfort.

Once the treated tattoo has healed, it might not appear to have faded very much. It will take several weeks before you notice that the tattoo lightens. It can also take several treatments before significant fading can be appreciated.

### Important information about tattoo removal:

- Most treated tattoos take 1-2 weeks to heal.
- Itching is a common side effect while the tattoo heals.
- Tattoos usually take 4-14 treatments for successful removal.
- The treated area is more likely to have pigment problems (darkening or lightening of the skin) if it is exposed to the sun. It is very important to keep the area shielded from sun exposure.
- Mild swelling is normal after the tattoo is treated.