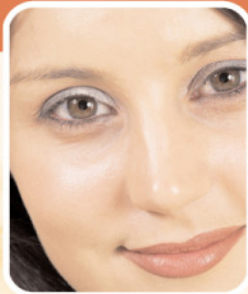


clear
skin today



Spot Removal

Age Spots, Birthmarks, brown spots and other unwanted pigments in your skin can often affect one's appearance and self-confidence. Do you have those unwelcome spots? Do you

wish there was a method of reducing or even removing that spot from your complexion forever? Do you wish to never be seen with that embarrassing birthmark or brown spot again? Your skin care specialist offers a method of dramatically reducing and in some cases, completely removing these unwanted blemishes with a laser.

How do lasers reduce unwanted pigments in the skin?

Lasers work by producing short pulses of intense light that pass harmlessly through the top layers of skin to be selectively absorbed by the targeted pigment. This laser energy causes the pigmented cells to fragment and dissolve safely into the body. Waste products are then gradually removed by the body's immune system.

What types of pigmented lesions can be treated?

In general, most tattoos can be successfully treated. The color, depth and chemical composition of the ink all affect how a tattoo responds to laser light. Black, red, dark orange and dark blue tattoos usually respond quickly, while green, yellow, light orange and light blues may require additional treatments. Lesions such as freckles, sunspots and many brown-colored birthmarks usually respond very quickly to laser therapy requiring one or two treatments.



Before

After



Before

After

How do I prepare for the treatment?

Patients should avoid regular aspirin and non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory agents such as Ibuprofen as they can produce pronounced bruising after treatment. The application of an anesthetic cream may also be used and is wiped off just before the laser treatment begins. Ask your provider for details.

Does it hurt?

Like getting a tattoo, removing it isn't painless. The impact of the energy from the laser's pulse of light has been described as light rubber band snaps on the skin. The use of the laser for pigmented lesions is less painful than that of a tattoo.

Is it safe?

There is little risk associated with laser treatments. This is minimal when removing unnecessary pigments in the skin, skin including tattoo inks. Side effects are generally few but may include hyperpigmentation (an abundance of color in the skin at the treatment site) and hypopigmentation (the treated area lacks normal skin color). Other side effect includes lack of complete pigment removal and a very minimal chance of scarring. However, you should consult your provider about the potential risks of your specific condition prior to treatment.

How long will it take?

Your first procedure will take 10 to 30 minutes, depending on the size of your tattoo or pigmented lesion.

Will I need more than one treatment?

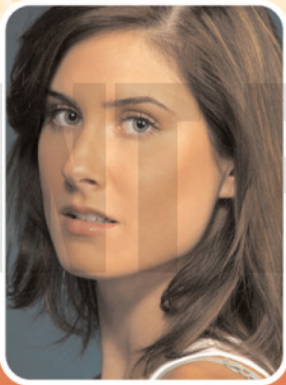
Some faint tattoos may fade completely after only one treatment, although multiple treatments may be needed for larger more complex tattoos or those or newer tattoos. The number of sessions depends on the amount and type of ink used and how deeply it was injected. Six to eight week intervals between sessions are required to allow pigment residue to be absorbed by the body. Pigmented lesions typically require one to two treatment sessions spaced four to eight weeks apart.

What should I expect after treatment

Following treatment, the area may become whitish-colored and swell slightly. Your provider may apply an antibacterial ointment and dressing to the area. Your skin might feel slightly sunburned for a couple of days and the treated area may remain red for a few weeks. The site may also form a scab.

Are there alternate treatments?

Since the 1980s, lasers have become the standard treatment for tattoo removal and pigmented lesions as they offer low risk, effective alternative with minimal side effects.



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