

# Tattoo Removal

## What to Expect During and After Your Procedure

### During your procedure

- To make you more comfortable topical numbing ointment may be applied or local anesthesia may be injected prior to your procedure.
- Eye shields will be used to protect your eyes.
- You will feel a brief sensation of heat (similar to grease “splattering” or rubber band “snapping” against your skin).
- Cold air may be applied directly to the skin surface as your [tattoo is being treated](#) to help decrease the sensation of heat.

### After your procedure:

- You will have a sensation of heat/intense sunburn which will subside throughout the day. It is okay to take Tylenol or Ibuprofen.
- You may notice a “white frosting” appearance over the treated area. This will subside shortly after treatment.
- It is possible to develop pinpoint bleeding, redness, and mild swelling.
- An ointment and bandage will be placed over your tattoo after the procedure to protect the surface of the skin.
- If needed, apply ice packs (20 min. on and 20 min. off) the day of the procedure. This will help reduce the sensation of heat and help minimize swelling.
- Swelling typically peaks at 48-72 hours. If the laser treatment is being performed on your face, sleeping with your head slightly elevated at night on two or three pillows for the first 2-3 nights will help minimize swelling. If the laser treatment is being done on the lower extremities (arms or legs), elevating these areas throughout the day and when sleeping at night for the first 3-5 nights will help minimize swelling.
- Swelling may vary from patient to patient and from treatment to treatment.
- NO RUBBING, PICKING OR WIPING THE TREATED AREA.
- It is okay to shower the day of the procedure.
- Gentle cleansing with the fingertips is okay.
- Crusting/scabbing may occur (allow to come off naturally, do not try to remove).

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- Apply antibiotic ointment daily until the surface has healed (typically 1-2 weeks).
- Cover treated area with a bandage if it is in a location that will be rubbed or irritated by clothing.

**Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns at (858) 657-1002**