

What Is The Cost?

Cosmetic Consultation: \$75

Laser Surrender Fees: All lasers are expensive to maintain and/or rent. Therefore, 50% of total charge will be assessed for missed scheduled laser times.

Pain Control

*Let us know if you would like 5% lidocaine ointment Rx instead of OTC pain control options. OTC pain control options include 20% benzocaine and 2% lidocaine. These **all** must be started a minimum of 40 minutes before appointment and re-applied frequently before the appointment (10 minute intervals). We can place a block if still too sensitive.

Typically, an ice block will be applied to also reduce pain and reduce swelling.

Scheduling

Schedule with front desk or billing staff

price subject to change

<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1121212-overview>

<http://www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/laser-tattoo-removal>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tattoo_removal

Other Lasers and Treatments

Fractionated CO2 and Erb Yag Lasers

These devices are not specific to color of tattoo but instead punch holes in the tattoo via heat and ablation of tissue. These lasers destroy parts of the tattoo and stimulate macrophages. These devices are primarily used for facial resurfacing.

Fractionated Radiofrequency

These devices treat the tattoo in a similar fashion to the fractionated lasers and carry similar risks. Again, these cause injury to skin to destroy parts of the tattoo and stimulate macrophages.

Chemical Peel

Medium chemical peels will help to reduce tattoos through non-specific skin damage and healing.

Pricing

Laser Treatment times:

\$125 / 5 minutes

\$225 / 10 minutes

\$300 / 15 minutes

Need to add \$100 to session if using the DeScribe Transparent PFD Patch

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TATTOO THERAPIES

Laser and other options

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Tattoo Removal

Decorative Tattoos have a history dating back at least 5000 years. The desire to remove them has probably existed just as long. Many studies have suggested that over 30% of patients regret having the tattoo within 5 years of placement.

Early attempts to remove tattoos has had mixed results using CO2 laser, Ruby, and Argon lasers.

At Greater Des Moines Dermatology, there are several ways to hide, reduce, or remove tattoos.

It is estimated that over 100 tattoo inks currently exist worldwide and none are regulated by the FDA.

COVER UPS

Cover ups are still a reasonable options.

Dermablend, Covermark, and others can be used to hide tattoos.

REMOVAL BY EXCISION

For small lesions, excision is the most definitive and predictable as the tattoo is completely removed/excised. Another advantage: any trace tattoo/ pigment change/dyspigmentation (which can occur with any laser) is not an issue. It is often the most cost efficient for small to medium tattoos. Costs are based on the size of lesion and complexity of closure.

Medium and Large tattoos (where bringing the skin back together is impossible) are not good candidates for excision.

Obviously, more aggressive wound care is required for several weeks after excising a tattoo. The risks are the same for excising a tattoo as would be in excising any benign tumor.

LASERS THAT BREAK UP PIGMENT

Q SWITCHED TATTOO LASERS

These have been the gold standard for the last 10 years. Limits often come down to wavelength in relation to color/type/amount of pigment (color). Also, heat injury (scarring) can be an issue.

R20 Protocol

New research with the q switched laser has shown more impact with 2nd pass 20 minutes after 1st session. Problems include waiting to retreat for > 20 minutes.

R0 Protocol

This protocol uses the R20 concept but eliminates the oxidation and bubbling via an inert chemical perfluorodecalin to remove oxidation in seconds so quick repass is possible. DeScribe Transparent PFD Patch.

PICOSECOND LASERS

These lasers will eventually replace Q Switched lasers as they are more acoustical than heat. Based on single pass protocol, they have had faster pigment break up than single pass q switched lasers. They also may benefit from the R20 or R0 protocols.

The jury is still out whether the picosecond lasers are better, similar, or less effective to the R0 protocol.

All tattoo lasers can be tender during therapy which can be helped by icing area, LMX, OTC anesthetics benzocaine and lidocaine, and EMLA.

Wound Care

With any laser, pinpoint bleeding, edema/swelling, dusky changes, and white hue can occur post therapy. Showering the area daily and frequent

Vaseline ointment is encouraged post operatively.

Advantages of tattoo lasers:

Can treat larger tattoos.

R0 Q Switched lasers and picosecond lasers are improving the technology.

Only mild wound care for days to weeks.

Using newer technology.

532nm Red and Orange and sun spots

755nm green and dark tattoos

1064nm safer for dark skinned patients

1064nm green and dark tattoos

Disadvantages of tattoo lasers:

Impossible to guarantee number of sessions needed to reduce a given tattoo substantially.

- Generally 5 - 12 sessions

Deeply pigmented tattoo (more pigment) will be slower to respond.

Green, White, and Yellow dyes are often slower to respond.

No clear "Best" laser.

- **1 Picosecond** and
- **2 N0 protocol with perfluorodecalin along with Q switched lasers** likely offer the quickest results.

Hypo and/or Hyper pigmentation risks exist with any laser therapy.

While often mild, scarring can occur.

Cost of laser largely dependent on size of tattoo (ie number of pulses of laser and time to treat)

Vaseline ointment wound care required for a few weeks after each treatment session.

Need to wait 4-6 weeks between sessions for digestion of pigment to occur.

If pigment change occurs after laser therapy, it will often be in the shape of the tattoo.