



Tattoo Regrets?

Tattoos are a popular form of self expression. Some get them for coming of age, others for symbolic reasons. But many find that after 10 or more years, their tattoo no longer fits their current lifestyle. Would you remove one if you could? Dr. Fanny Louton answers some of your laser tattoo removal questions.

How are tattoos removed?

Blair Plastic Surgery uses a Q-switched laser that is both effective and safe for the removal of dark and reddish colors. Earlier removal methods involved the use of dermabrasion, salabrasion (salt scrub), surgery and CO2 lasers, but these methods leave scars. Also commonly seen on the internet are tattoo removal creams—which do not work.

Does it hurt?

The laser emits light in very short flashes called pulses. Many people describe the pulse as being like the snap of a rubber band. Blair Plastic Surgery uses topical numbing creams as well as a cooling system to numb the skin and reduce any discomfort.

Will I have a scar?

The chance of scarring is low, if you follow the aftercare instructions. The risk of scarring is increased for individuals who are pregnant, have dark skin tone, poor circulation, immune system deficiencies, or taking Accutane.

How many treatments will it take?

Each person is as unique as their tattoo. Most professional tattoos take 6 to 10 treatments. Homemade tattoos take 3 to 5 treatments. Laser sessions are spaced out 8 to 12 weeks apart, to allow your body to naturally remove the pigment fragments. The number of treatments depends on the amount of ink used, type of ink, depth, location, age, colors, and each person's individual health considerations. Older tattoos are quicker to remove than new ones.

Will the tattoo completely disappear?

In many cases, yes. However, it is very important to know that over 100 types of tattoo inks are used today and none of them are regulated by the FDA. Without standardized inks it makes it difficult to predict the degree of removal of any tattoo.

Does color matter?

Yes. Black ink responds the best. Red, orange, pink, and warmer colors also do well while purple and yellow are variable. Removal of green and teal blue ink can be difficult and incomplete. White, flesh tones, and permanent make-up can turn darker with laser, and are not treated.

What type of aftercare is necessary?

A healing anti-bacterial ointment and a bandage will be applied to the area. The treated site should be kept clean and dry that day, and out of the sun during the healing process. If a scab forms, it is vital that the area is never picked or scratched in order to avoid scarring. A shower can be taken the next day, and the site should not be scrubbed.

Do I need a consultation?

Yes, a consultation is required before any laser treatment, and usually takes less than 15 minutes. It involves taking a health history, evaluating the tattoo, explaining the procedure, reviewing risks and benefits, discussing options, answering questions, and establishing the price per treatment. Client must be at least 18 years of age and have photo identification. No children are allowed to be present during treatment or consultations. The cost is \$50.

How much will it cost?

Cost per laser treatment for tattoos less than 4" X 4" is \$250. Tattoos larger than this but less than 8" X 8" in size cost \$400 per treatment. Very small and very large tattoos will be quoted on an individual basis at your consultation.

Why should I choose Blair Plastic Surgery for my laser treatment?

Many practices offer laser treatments, but it is important to remember that a laser is only a tool in reaching a specific goal. Its effectiveness depends on the training, skill, and experience of the operator in order to achieve optimal results. At Blair Plastic Surgery, we have been performing laser treatments since 1990, designing custom laser solutions for a wide variety of conditions and problems. Unlike spas or other medical practices, you know that your laser treatment will be directed by a licensed physician with over 14 years of laser experience.

To learn more about laser tattoo removal, or other laser treatment procedures like laser skin resurfacing, vascular laser treatments and laser hair removal, please contact us today to schedule your consultation, 814-234-1420 or 814-949-7280.



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