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PICO-SECOND LASERS, NEW GENERATION INSTRUMENTS FOR TATTOO REMOVAL

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Aim: Tattoos have played an important role in human culture for thousands of years, and they remain popular today. The development of quality-switched (QS) lasers in the nanosecond (10^{-9}) domain has revolutionized the removal of unwanted tattoos for 15 years. However, restrictions continue with this QS technology, such as resistant colours (blue, green yellow). Also, multiple sessions (10 to 15) are usually required.

Method: To describe the effect of a new generation of lasers, working in the picosecond (10^{-12}) domain entered the market in Europe one year ago. During this presentation personal examples with this technology will be presented in various tattoo conditions. This ultra short pulse duration breaks the tattoo pigment in much smaller particles, thus eliminating it more easily and quickly.

Results / Discussion: The use of picosecond laser results in a) less sessions needed, so less time required to clear tattoos b) better clearance of pigment c) possibility of removing previous resistant colours.

Conclusion: With this new picosecond technology a new era is opened in the field of laser tattoo removal, allowing better and faster pigment removal.