

19

LASER TATTOO REMOVAL: A FEW TIPS & TRICKS

Maurice Adatto¹

¹*Skinpulse Derm & Laser Centre; (Geneva, Switzerland).*

Background & Objectives: 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 has revolutionized the removal of unwanted tattoos. The purpose of this study is to update the audience with the latest developments in laser tattoo removal and to give a few practical tips.

Study Design / Material & Methods: We have now 17-year experience and more than 1500 patients treated for tattoo removal and wrote several articles on this subject (1-2) During this talk we will develop the key points of our personal results and also introduce the new findings with the use of QS lasers, such as the new R20 method (3) and the use of picosecond laser (4)

Results: Some colors, like black, respond well to QS lasers, while some other like yellow do not respond at all. Some tricks while using QS lasers must be known, e.g. pigment darkening (5).

Conclusion: Laser tattoo removal is effective and safe if good patient and tattoo selection is made prior starting the treatment.

Litterature:

1. Adatto MA, Halachmi S, Lapidoth M. Tattoo removal. *Curr Probl Dermatol.* 2011;42:97-110.
2. Adatto MA. Laser tattoo removal: benefits and caveats. *Med. Laser Appl.* 2004;19: 175-185.
3. Kossida T, Rigopoulos D, Katsambas A, Anderson RR. Optimal tattoo removal in a single laser session based on the method of repeated exposures. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2012 Feb;66(2):271-7.
4. Saedi N, Metelitsa A, Petrell K, Arndt KA, Dover JS. Treatment of Tattoos With a Picosecond Alexandrite Laser: A Prospective Trial. *Arch Dermatol.* 2012 Sep 17:1-4.
5. Anderson RR, Geronemus R, Kilmer SL, Farinelli W, Fitzpatrick RE. Cosmetic tattoo ink darkening. A complication of Q-switched and pulsed-laser treatment. *Arch Dermatol.* 1993 Aug;129(8):1010-4.