

What is ArtEraseSM?

ArtEraseSM is a laser tattoo removal therapy that employs the healing power of light to permanently fade and remove unwanted tattoos.

How does ArtEraseSM remove tattoos?

The lasers used in the ArtEraseSM treatment process are a special type called Q-switched lasers. These lasers contain a very fast array of tiny switches and mirrors that allow its pulses to be delivered in very fast, short bursts. Different wavelengths of light are chosen depending on what colors are being treated within the pigment of the tattoo. When the laser light is absorbed by the ink, the pigment is broken down into tiny fragments without significantly damaging surrounding skin. These fragments are then safely removed from the body by white blood cells. This process of fragmenting the ink particles requires numerous sessions depending on the depth the ink was placed, the age of the tattoo, and the colors used.

What can I expect during treatment?

A topical anesthetic is applied an hour prior to treatment. Once the skin is numbed, your RevealSM Clinician will use a handpiece to systematically treat the tattoo. Treatment sensation is most often described as warm with a slight stinging or snapping (like that of a rubber band).

Does it hurt?

Treatment is well-tolerated after a topical anesthetic is applied to minimize discomfort. Contact or air cooling may also be used to increase your comfort. As stated above, treatment sensation is most often described as warm with a slight stinging or snapping (like that of a rubber band).

How long does each procedure take?

Treatment time is dependent on the size and complexity of the tattoo. A single color tattoo the size of a deck of cards can be treated in 15 minutes, but add in other colors and it will likely take 30 minutes. A large, single color tribal arm band will take close to 30 minutes to treat. A tattoo the size of a sheet of paper with multiple colors could take up to an hour.

What type of post-treatment care is necessary?

After treatment, a petroleum ointment will be applied, and ointment should continue to be applied to keep the area moist for up to a week after the treatment. When bathing, the area should be treated gently, and scrubbing or strong detergent soaps should be avoided. Because the treated area should be cared for like a sunburn, it's recommended that you avoid hot-tubs, chlorinated pools and significant sun exposure. Additionally, an SPF 30 sun block should always be applied, even if you're "just going in and out of the car".

How should I prepare for my treatments?

Avoid tanning (sun bathing or tanning bed) the treated area while undergoing your series of ArtEraseSM treatments, since your skin will be more susceptible to over-reacting to the intense light.

Does the procedure have any side effects?

Side effects of laser procedures are generally few but may include hyperpigmentation (excessive color), or hypopigmentation (excessive fading) of skin. Other possible side effects include temporary crusting or blisters, infection, and a small chance of permanent scarring. The area may appear like a sun burn for a few months and ultimately the skin will become normal.

When will I see results?

Most people will begin to see results approximately 4 to 6 weeks after even the first treatment, but the initial response will vary greatly depending upon the individual and tattoo. Single color, dark blue or black inks will be the first to fade, and these may improve tremendously with only a few treatments for more shallow or amateur tattoos. Anyone undergoing this procedure needs to understand, however, that this is a long process that could entail 10, 15, or even more treatments depending upon the tattoo. Even with the best lasers, full resolution of all signs of the tattoo cannot be guaranteed.

Can all tattoos be removed?

While many tattoos can be completely removed, some may not respond to treatment. Tattoos are meant to be permanent and with recent ink technology and professional tattoo artists improving their skills, tattoos imprinted in the last decade are very difficult to remove. Even with the best technique, some residual scarring remains in a few cases.

Who is a candidate for ArtEraseSM?

Those individuals with fair skin and superficially placed tattoos on the arms, chest, buttocks or legs are the best candidates. Darker skin is more difficult to treat (and in some cases may not be treatable at all).

What determines the success of tattoo removal?

The overall success of removal of a tattoo is based on several things: size, location, the individual's ability to heal, their skin color, how the tattoo was applied and how long it has been in place. Newer tattoos are generally more difficult to remove than old ones.

How many sessions are required?

Simple tattoos may be removed in 5 treatments scheduled about 8 weeks apart. Removing complex and deep tattoos requires a series of treatments spaced approximately 8 weeks apart or longer. Professional tattoos usually require 10-15 treatments or more for significant or complete clearing.

