

Tattoo Removal Options

Permanent makeup is wonderful unless, of course, it is applied incorrectly or the client has a change of heart. Once a person is cosmetically tattooed, that individual is scarred. If he/she is not satisfied with their procedure, it can be very difficult to remove. Since the introduction of the field, there have been people who would like to turn back the clock and remove, permanently, their permanent makeup. For these individuals, and to really perfect the field, there have been technicians and physicians working towards a solution for removal of cosmetic tattoo pigment.

Unfortunately, of the options available, none have proven to be without fault nor have any proven to remove pigment, leaving the scarred skin flawless. Nonetheless, there are options available with pros and cons to each.

Laser Removal – There are several types of lasers available. The two most common lasers for removal of tattoo and cosmetic tattoo pigments are the Ruby Dye Laser and the Candela Laser. Operated by a licensed physician, these lasers remove pigment from the skin - all pigment. Hence, the probability is that the cosmetic tattoo pigment color can be removed, but some of the inflicted skin may be damaged.

Tannic Acid – One of the oldest forms of tattoo removal, tannic acid has been employed for pigment removal as long as cosmetic tattooing has been in practice. After the pores of the skin have been opened with a needle, tannic acid is applied to pigmented areas with a Q-tip. Tannic acid may also be injected into the skin like pigment. Unfortunately, tannic acid removal has not proven to be totally successful.

Glycolic Acid – This newest form of tattoo removal is really being promoted as the leader in tattoo and cosmetic tattoo pigment removal. Since the use of glycolic acid is so recent, its ability to remove pigment is still undetermined. However, cosmetic technicians having experience with glycolic acid removal are optimistic about its success.

Other methods of pigment removal include: chemical peels, dermabrasion, surgery and other applications of various acids. There are risks inherent in tattoo removal and the overall success rate depends upon the depth of pigment, the composition and color of the pigment and the age of the procedure. Most methods of cosmetic tattoo pigment removal may require many applications and may cause additional damage to the skin. Examples includes scars, loss of skin pigment, pigment migration and minor skin burns or irritation.