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**The Medlite Laser** –*The choice for tattoo removal.*

Decorative tattoos have a history dating back at least 5000 years. The desire to remove them has probably existed just as long. Early attempts to remove tattoos have had less than desirable results. The use of dermabrasion, saltabrasion and Argon or CO2 laser have left behind scars in place of the tattoo.

The advent of Q-Switched laser has permitted the removal of most tattoo inks with a very low risk of scarring. The Medlite Q-Switched Nd: YAG laser is the laser of choice in this class of laser. The Medlite can significantly lighten or removed a wide variety of tattoo inks.

*How does the Medlite laser remove the tattoo?*

The Medlite laser removes tattoo ink with the energy of light. A laser is a device which is designed to produce one or more specific wavelengths of light. Tattoo ink is removed by using this specific wavelength of light which passes into the skin, but is absorbed by the ink. The rapid absorption of the light energy causes the tattoo ink to break into tiny particles which can be removed by the body's natural filtering systems. The Medlite laser provides maximum tattoo removal while leaving the surrounding skin unharmed.

*What type of tattoos can be removed?*

The Medlite laser can remove professional, amateur (homemade), traumatic and surgical tattoos.

*How many treatments will it take to remove a tattoo?*

On the average, professional tattoos require 6-10 treatments, while amateur tattoos require 2-6 treatments, all spaced approximately 6-8 weeks apart. The number of treatments depends on the amount and type of ink used, and the depth of the ink in the skin.

*Does the laser remove colored tattoos?*

Dark (blue, black) and red inks will resolve the best. Oranges and purples usually fade as well. Green and yellow inks are the most difficult to remove, and additional treatments are needed to produce significant fading.

*Will the tattoo completely disappear?*

In many cases, yes. Greater than 95% fading of the tattoo may be accomplished. However, it is important to know that there are many, many types of tattoo inks in use worldwide today, none of which are regulated by the FDA. Not knowing which tattoo ink was used, or how deeply it was applied, makes it impossible for the physician to predict the degree of removal on any given tattoo.

*Is the process painful?*

The Medlite laser emits light in very short pulses. The impact of the energy from the powerful pulse of light is similar to the snap of a small rubber band on the skin. The majority of patients do not require anesthesia, depending on the size and location of the tattoo. Anesthesia creams are available if needed.

MAIN OFFICE

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# Mountain State Dermatology

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## *What type of post-treatment care is necessary?*

An antibacterial ointment and a dressing will be applied to the area immediately after treatment. Occasionally, there will be pinpoint bleeding associated with the treatment. The treated area should be kept clean. Follow your physician's instructions exactly as to what to do during the days following the procedure. A shower can be taken the next day, although the treated area should never be scrubbed. If a scab forms it is vital that you do not pick or scratch it.

## *How do I get started?*

Your physician will be happy to discuss this procedure with you. Please feel free to make an appointment for a consultation to discuss your specific needs.

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