What kinds of Tattoos and Pigmented Lesion can be treated”

A tattoo’s color, depth, and the chemical composition of the ink all affect how it responds to laser light. Back, Red, Dark Orange, and Dark blue tattoos will usually respond relatively quickly to treatments with laser treatment. However green, purple, brown, light orange, and light blue colors may respond more slowly. In general, most tattoos can be successfully treated, given a sufficient number of treatments. A wide range of pigmented lesions can also be treated, including sunspots, nevus of Ota, Freckles, and many brown-colored birthmarks.

How does the laser work?

The laser emits a highly focused beam of intense laser light. This light passes harmlessly through the outer layer of the skin and is absorbed primarily by the tattoo ink or excess pigment within the lesion. As the light is absorbed, it is converted to heat. This all happens within a tiny fraction of a second, and the sudden rise in temperature within the treatment target fractures the ink or pigment into tiny particles. White blood cells then carry away these particles to be naturally eliminated by the body.

Does the treatment hurt?

Since the laser light selectively targets the undesired ink or pigment, other tissues remain largely unaffected, and therefore most patients report some discomfort. The sensation is similar to how you felt when the tattoo was applied. If the treatment is too uncomfortable, local anesthesia, may be necessary.

What happens after the laser treatment?

Immediately after laser treatment, the area will become a whitish-colored and swell slightly. This whiteness and swelling tend to go away in about 30 minutes. Over the next several days, some mild crusting may appear over the treated area. As this crusting resolves, the tattoo, or pigmented lesion will fade. The tattoo or lesion will typically continue to fade for many weeks thereafter.

How long does it take?

Depending on the size and location of the tattoo or lesion, each treatment usually takes about 10-30 minutes. Some faint tattoos and pigmented lesions will fade completely after only one or two treatments, though most requires five or six treatments. Treatments should be spaced 4 to 6 weeks apart to give your body sufficient time to fully eliminate loosened particles of ink or pigments.

Are there any Side Effects?

Because the laser beam does not penetrate beyond the skin, side effects are rare. When side effects do occur, they are usually mild and confined to the treatment area.

What are the Alternative Treatments?

The alternatives for pigmented lesion removals vary, depending on the nature of lesion. In the case of tattoo removal, however, laser treatment is the only effective method that is unlikely to cause any scarring. The alternatives to laser tattoo removal include surgical excision, salabrasion (using salt to burn away layers of skin), and chemical peels (using acid to burn away layer of skin). These methods not only cause scars but can also be painful. Laser treatment with the laser is a state-of-the-art treatment that yields excellent results without the perils and disadvantages of other procedures.