

## Will my tattoo be completely removed?

Possibly, modern lasers can give fantastic results but there are no guarantees. Sometimes the total elimination of the tattoo is not possible despite the use of the most advanced tattoo removal equipment.

There are many factors that can affect treatment results such as:

- Age of Tattoo
- Application method
- Type of Ink used
- Depth of ink
- Density of ink
- Area of tattoo
- Your healing ability
- Skin type

Tattoos that are carried out by professionals are usually more difficult to remove as they contain more pigment colours and much more detail in the design.

Often with an amateur tattoo, the ink is more sparsely applied and of lesser quality to what is used today in most modern tattoo studios, this is usually easier to remove.

Some amateur tattooists (& even some 'professionals') create pockets of inks that are too deep and extremely difficult to eradicate completely.

You may be surprised but there is no recognised international standard for the manufacture of tattoo ink, sometimes pigments may be mixed with other unknown compounds. Sometimes these compounds can react to the laser light.

### Example 1:



*lightening may continue for several months after the last treatment session.*

### How much does it cost?

Treatment prices are from £40 per session depending on type of tattoo, size, and colours used.

We will be able to give you a full quote during your consultation.

A consultation & patch test takes approx 40 minutes. Consultations are free of charge, patch tests are £10.00

## Can you remove all colours?

No. - Laser tattoo removal works best on tattoos of black ink that was sparsely applied to fair skin. Black ink is also able to absorb the full spectrum of light.

**A wide range of other colours can usually be removed successfully or lightened to a large degree:** Brown, Red\*, Orange, Darker Green, Blue, Purple

*(IMPORTANT! Some people can have an allergic reaction to red ink particles absorbed into to body)*

**The most difficult colours to remove are pastel colours such as:** Light Green, Pale Blue, Teal, Turquoise, Pink\*

These colours may be lightened, but it is difficult to remove them completely. If you are going to cover-up your tattoo with a new design these pastel colours are usually easy to cover.

### Usually untreatable Colours:

White\*, Yellow, Light green, Skin tones, Fluorescent or UV\*

White and yellow ink does fade over time and become less noticeable, be cautious of anyone who guarantees to remove all traces of green ink.

### \*Colours with potential problems

Occasionally the tattoo may go darker where the ingredients in certain ink colours carbonise. This irreversible darkening is sometimes seen with the following colours:

*White, Pink, Flesh Tone colours, Fluorescent or Ultra-Violet, Light Brown, Red,*

Although these complications are rare, it is one of the reasons we insist on a patch test for each colour in the tattoo so that potentially rare complications can be predicted before undergoing laser treatment.

### Can I have just a part of my tattoo removed?

Yes. Our lasers are very accurate. We can take the face off your pin-up girl to have it redone. We can take just the name off pieces or remove misspelt letters.

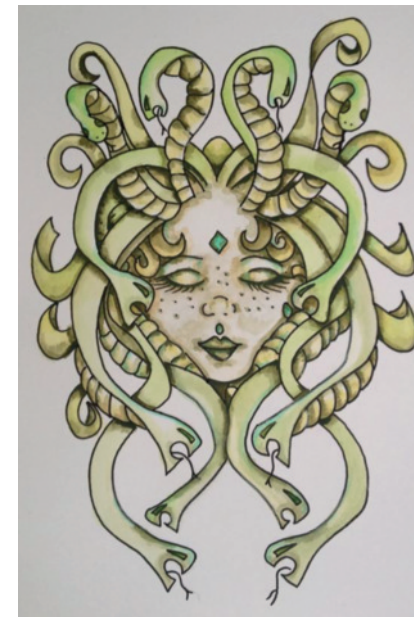
### Can I have a tattoo over the treated area?

Yes, once the treatment site has fully healed you can have a tattoo on the same area. We recommend a minimum of 6 months after your last treatment.

### Will I see a difference straight away?

Occasionally you will but usually the tattoo will look normal again after treatment. The main fading is in the first 4 to 6 weeks after treatment

# MEDUSA LASER Tattoo Removal



**Laser Tattoo Removal and Reduction  
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### **How does Laser treatment work on tattoos?**

Our laser produces a very high power in quick pulses. The light energy produced tends to pass through normally pigmented skin and is absorbed by the tattoo ink deep in the dermis layer. The pigment is rapidly heated, expands and shatters into tiny particles which are evacuated from the body through normal immune response. As the ink particles are removed, the tattoo begins to fade. Multiple treatments are required.

### **Is the tattoo removal laser dangerous?**

Tattoo removal lasers are very safe for use when used by a trained laser operator with correct working procedure and safety equipment (appropriate goggles to protect the eyes).

The radiation emitted by a tattoo removal laser is non-ionizing and carries no risk of cancer or other abnormal cell growth. The procedure is non-surgical, and non-invasive.

### **Does it hurt?**

Lasers will cause some discomfort and it is usual to experience a small amount of pain in the area afterwards. The laser pulses have been likened to having your skin 'pinged' with an elastic band. This is usually tolerated by most people without any anaesthetic. However, some areas are more sensitive than others, especially around the ankles or the shoulder blade.

Fortunately, the discomfort does decrease as treatment progresses and the tattoo pigments fade. Most people will be able to tolerate the treatment but local anaesthetic cream can be used if required.

### **Will the Laser Treatment leave a scar?**

Not normally. It is very unusual to develop any scarring but it is a possibility, especially with poor aftercare (*there is a reported 5% chance of scarring following tattoo removal treatments*).

The low pulse width of our laser reduces the risk of scarring.

### **How long does the treatment take?**

Usually between 5 and 30 minutes, longer sessions could cause too much skin trauma so are not recommended for larger tattoos need to be treated in several separate sittings 2 - 3 weeks apart.

Depending on the tattoo and the result required (removal or cover up) up to 12 or more sessions may be required.

Treatment sessions are minimum 6 to 8 weeks apart.

### **Can the area be tattooed again?**

Yes, although we do recommend waiting at least 6 months after your last laser session before having the area tattooed over again.

### **What happens immediately after treatment?**

Straight after treatment the area will feel hot and skin will form small white 'blisters', these are water vapour spots created by the intense heat under the skin, and might be flat or slightly raised. This is a good sign that the treatment is working. These white spots start to fade quickly and the remaining ink will start to show through.

### **What are the other possible side effects?**

Most side effects of laser procedures are temporary, generally few and to be expected. Normally symptoms will subside within a week and may include:

**Localised Swelling and Redness** - The most common side effect, could feel similar to sunburn for a day or two

**Blistering** - Don't worry when blistering occurs, this is part of the normal healing process and the skin will heal nicely afterwards as long as you do not pick and scratch the scab.

**Infection** - There is always a risk of infection to the area after treatment. A good level of hygiene is important.

**Scabbing** - If you do experience blistering and/or bleeding, when the scab forms it is very important not to pick or scratch as this could cause scarring and impair further treatments.

**Hypopigmentation** - Loss of skin colour may occur. But, Normal skin tone should return within 6–12 months. Occasionally hypopigmentation can be permanent or pigment returns in patches. Risk is increased with multiple treatments and on darker skin types.

**Hyperpigmentation** - An abundance of colour in the skin at the treated area. More common in darker skin types and patients with fresh tans. Usually a temporary effect that responds to topical bleaching therapy and resolves over time.

**Sunburn** - A risk that follows treatment, It is important that you keep the area covered in a minimum SPF 25 sun cream if the area is not covered by clothing or a dressing.

**Lack of complete pigment removal** – Some colours cannot be treated, traces (or ghosting) of pigment may remain.

**Slight pin-prick bleeding or weeping** - This is normal and nothing to worry about.

**Allergic Reaction** - A possible development an allergic reaction to the tattoo dye as it is released in your system.

*Detailed written aftercare advice will be provided as part of your consultation.*

### **Am I suitable for treatment?**

Certain medical conditions and medications would make exposure to the laser treatment dangerous to you.

#### **Patients that should not be treated:**

- Pregnancy, or a patient trying to become pregnant.
- Breast feeding,
- Chemotherapy within last 6 months
- Users of Accutane or Tretinoin-Retin A in last 6 months\*
- Type I Diabetes
- Bleeding Disorders
- Anyone with an immune system disorder.
- Active Infections or inflammatory skin conditions at the treatment site
- Tanned or sunburned skin in area of tattoo
- Thrombocytopenia
- Peripheral Vascular Disease
- Anaemia
- Rheumatoid Arthritis/Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Chronic Disease (Crohn's Disease, IBD, etc.)
- Renal Failure (Acute or Chronic)
- Malignancy
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Epilepsy (because repeated flasher may induce a fit)
- Collagen Vascular Diseases
- Users of St. John's Wort in the past 3 months\*
- Waxing, plucking, sugaring or threading depilation treatment of the area in the previous 4~6 weeks\*
- Surgical metal pins or plates under tissue to be treated
- Wearing a pacemaker
- Taking any topical medication (e.g. hydrocortisone) or is wearing perfumes, deodorants, sun block, oils, etc.\*

*\* Some conditions will only temporarily prevent you from undergoing laser treatment, medical contraindications will be discussed during your consultation.*

#### **Patients to exercise extra precautions or care with:**

- Allergic reaction to ink, primarily red tattoo ink, may lead to increased chance of anaphylaxis.
- Skin types IV or above
- History of keloid scarring
- History of hyper or hypopigmentation
- Antibiotic use may cause an increase sensitivity to light.

#### **Other Conditions to Consider:**

Chronic disease because of delay in healing. These patients may need longer between treatments to heal. Older clients may also take longer to heal.

**We are not registered to treat clients under 18 years**

**WE WILL NOT TREAT RECENTLY SUNTANNED SKIN**