

MIDWEST LASER SURGERY CENTRE

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Laser Hair Removal



General Information

Hair removal using the GentleLASE laser provides a promising alternative for people who shave, pluck and wax for temporary results, or undergo time intensive sessions of electrolysis.

The most obvious advantage of laser hair removal is a relatively painless and long-term solution for unwanted hairs. The area where the unwanted hair is treated is left soft and smooth, free of stubble or an unattractive shadow, ingrown hairs are uncommon and the hair regrowth which follows will be finer and softer. Laser hair removal is a quick and safe procedure, which removes unwanted body hair without damaging the skin. The treatments offer a long-term reprieve from unwanted hair growth with a minimal risk of scarring.

What can I expect from a laser hair removal treatment?

A clean skin surface is necessary in order to carry out the laser procedure. At the time of your appointment the area to be treated should be shaved. You should not wax or have electrolysis before your appointment as these applications remove the hair root, which needs to be present for laser treatment.

Hair removal treatments use advanced, clinically tested laser technology to selectively target the pigment inside the hair follicle. The process uses laser light energy, which gently passes through the skin and is absorbed by the hair follicle. The laser energy absorbed by the follicle is transformed into heat, which disables the follicle but leaves the delicate pores and structures of the skin unchanged.

Each laser pulse disables a large number of hair follicles without damaging the surrounding skin. Increased comfort and protection for the skin is provided during treatment by a cooling process in which cryogen or gel is applied to the skin's surface.

The laser pulses that are emitted during the treatment are rapid and evenly distributed. The pulses cause a stinging sensation, which has been described as the feeling of an elastic band snapping against your skin. Some parts of the body are more sensitive to this pulsing than others. Laser hair removal treats hairs that are visible at the time of the treatment and disables those follicles that are in the active phase of the growth cycle. Follicles that are in the resting phase of the growth cycle will not be affected.

How many treatments will I need?

The number of treatments needed to completely remove the hair in question is highly varied from patient to patient depending on where the hair is located as well as the complexion of the patient. The best candidates for laser hair removal are dark haired and fair skinned. However, this does not mean that others will not have desirable results.

After each treatment the patient should enjoy a reprieve from hair growth. It is important to keep in mind however, that hair grows in cycles. Hair removal is a process as it is necessary to treat each cycle of hair growth, therefore a series of treatments are required. In all cases, however, regrowth should be slower, and the hair that does grow back should be sparser, soft and fine as overtime more and more hair is permanently removed.

What can I expect following the treatment?

After the treatment it is normal for the area to be red, tender and a bit swollen. Some white bumps may form as well. This reaction should settle anywhere from minutes after the treatment to the next day depending on the area treated and the skin's sensitivity.

After your treatment hair will still be in place. It is important to keep in mind that it is the hair follicle that has been treated. In the next few days, or weeks, the hair will grow and fall out leaving a smooth, clean surface. During this time it is crucial to diligently apply sunscreen of minimum SPF 15 as the treated area will be more sensitive to exposure to the sun. Failure to take precautions against sun exposure may result in the development of darkened patches of hyperpigmentation. The application of sunscreen is most important in the first two weeks after your treatment.

How much does laser hair removal cost?

The price of laser hair removal is determined in consultation with the attending physician. The treatment is not covered by provincial health care as it is deemed to be cosmetic. The price per treatment is based on a number of factors which are evaluated during your personal consultation namely, the size of the area, the time that it will take to treat the area, the density of the hair growth and the laser pulses that will be required.