

# MIDWEST LASER SURGERY CENTRE

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Open: Monday to Friday 9:00-5:00  
Extended hours: Evenings and Weekends

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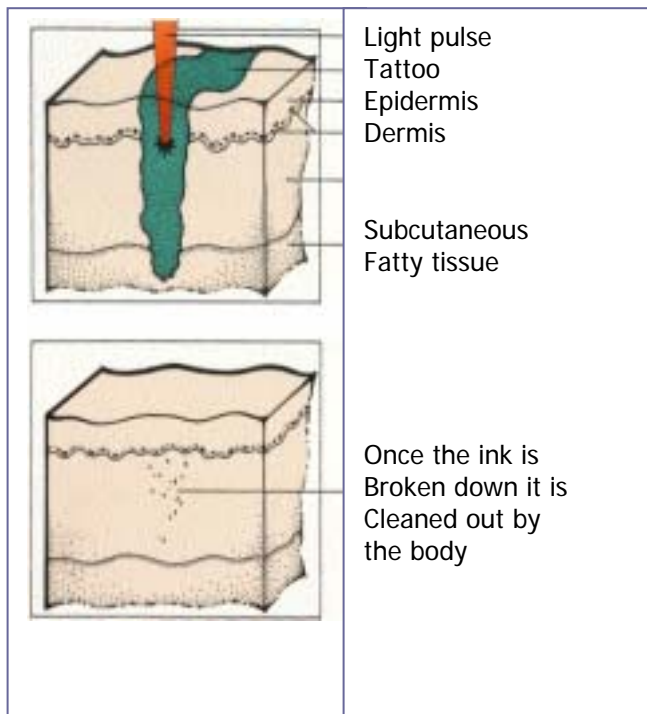
102-1000 8th Ave SW  
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## Laser Tattoo Removal



## General Information

Medical laser technology offers individuals an opportunity to “undo their tattoo” with minimal risk of scarring. On most occasions greater than 95% fading of the tattoo is likely. Laser treatment removes tattoo ink with light energy, which is emitted in short flashes called pulses. A specific wavelength is used so that light energy is able to pass through the skin and be absorbed by the ink. Surrounding skin is not affected. Absorption of light energy breaks down the tattoo ink in the skin and allows the body's natural filtering systems to clear away the ink residue.



## How many sessions will it take to remove my tattoo?

The number of sessions needed to successfully remove a tattoo is as varied as the tattoos themselves. The number of treatments is based primarily on the type of ink, the amount of ink and how deeply the ink is embedded in the skin. As a rule, professional tattoos are more difficult to remove than amateur.

Generally, professional tattoos require 6-8 treatments while amateur tattoos require 4-6 treatments. An additional consideration is the size of the area to be treated. It is also important to note that some

colors are more responsive to laser treatment than others. For example, dark blue black inks and red inks fade the best, while light green, aqua blue and yellow inks are the most difficult to remove. All treatments should be spaced a minimum of 4-6 weeks apart in order to allow the tattoo to lighten and the skin to heal before the next treatment.

## **What can I expect during and after the laser treatment?**

The impact of the energy pulses has been described as similar to the snap of an elastic band on the skin. Following treatment, the area usually takes 1-2 weeks to heal. During this time, the area should be treated with care. Exact postoperative instructions will be given in consultation prior to treatment.

## **How much does laser treatment for tattoo removal cost?**

Provincial health care does not cover cosmetic procedures. The cost to remove a tattoo varies depending on the number of treatments required, which depends on the size, location, depth and color of the tattoo. A price quote is determined upon consultation with the attending physician.