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Removal of an Amateur Tattoo with a Single Treatment

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Parameters:

	Pre-drilling	Tattoo removal
Laser source	Er:YAG, 2940 nm	Q-sw Nd:YAG
Handpiece	FS01	R28
Fluence	44 J/cm ²	4.5 J/cm ²
Pulse duration	SP	
Mode	Turbo 3	
Spot size		5 mm
Frequency	1.5 Hz	1.5 Hz
Cooling	/	Cold air (Zimmer 5)

Treatment procedure:

The patient came to the office wanting to remove an amateur tattoo on his left forearm, which was self-made about 20 years earlier. Since the tattoo's placement, it had faded significantly, but the fading stopped in the last few years.

A low number of sessions was predicted according to the nature of the tattoo, which actually took only 1 treatment to get full clearance. The procedure was done in 2 steps; pre-drilling with Er:YAG and tattoo pigment destruction with Q-switched Nd:YAG. No anesthesia was used. The treatment area was cooled with cold air. The patient reported no pain in the first step and minimal pain during the second step of the procedure. We applied corticosteroid/antibiotic cream and covered the area for 24 hours after the procedure.

The follow-up photo taken a month and a half after treatment shows an almost complete clearance of the tattoo ink. It is expected that pigment clearing will continue and that a second treatment won't be necessary.



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Before treatment



After 1 treatment



6 weeks after 1 treatment