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Tattoo Removal with Er:YAG Predrilling

Dr. Yanina Nachman-Lee

Parameters:

	Treatment 1-3	Treatment 4-8	Treatment 4-8	Treatment 9
Laser source:	Qs 1064 nm	2940 nm	Qs 1064 nm	2940 nm
Pulse duration:	Qs	SP	Qs	MSP
Fluence:	2.5-3 J/cm ²	10 J/cm ²	4-4.5 J/cm ²	8-10 J/cm ²
Frequency:	2.5-3 Hz	10 Hz	4.5-5 Hz	10-12 Hz
Handpiece:	R28	FS01	R28	FS01
Spotsize:	5-6 mm	-	5-6 mm	-

Treatment procedure:

A male patient came to our clinic in order to remove a black eagle tattoo on his right shoulder, which was several years old. The first three treatments were done with only 1064 nm Qs Nd:YAG with 5-week intervals. The following treatments were done with 2940 nm Er:YAG predrilling and 1064 nm Qs Nd:YAG as a second step. Treatments 4 to 8 were done with 8-12 week intervals.

The area of the tattoo was anaesthetized by application of 15% lidocaine and 5% prilocaine ointment plus 2% lidocaine HCl gel for 45 min before the treatment. Additional comfort for the patient was achieved with the use of cold-air cooling during treatment. Immediately after treatment, Trolamine cream was applied and the area was bandaged for 2-3 hours. Nine sessions were needed to achieve complete clearance, with excellent results and high patient satisfaction.

The final session with only fractional resurfacing was used because in our experience it unifies the skin texture and tone faster.



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