



Pico Laser using FracTAT for Black Ink Tattoo Removal in Darker Asian Skin

Dr. Jia Xi Chong

Introduction:

In this case, we used the StarWalker PQX to remove black tattoo ink using the FracTat technique. Four weeks after treatment, the patient was reviewed with clinical photographs to gauge improvements. We found an effective reduction in tattoo ink with no adverse events.

Tattoo ink removal is challenging in darker Asian patients of Fitzpatrick skin type III & IV. The challenge is in finding the correct parameter and end point to reduce ink safely without forming scars and pigmentary changes.

Laser	Fotona EBD	
	Step 1	Step 2
Handpiece	F9	Black
Wavelength & mode	1064 nm	1064 nm
Pulse duration	300 ps	300 ps
Spot size	9x9 mm	4 mm
Fluence / energy	1.5 mJ/px	2 J/cm ²
Frequency	1 Hz	3 Hz
Passes	1	1
Stacking	no	no
Cooling	yes	yes
Sessions	1 Session	



Dr. Jesse Jia Xi Chong is a medical aesthetic practitioner based in Penang island, Malaysia. He specializes in all types of aesthetic injections and is an expert user of the StarWalker PQX and SP Dynamis systems from Fotona. Dr. Chong is highly experienced at performing minimally invasive procedures such as double-eyelid creation and laser surgeries to improve aesthetic concerns for his patients. His aim is to have all his patients looking their best at every age, safely.

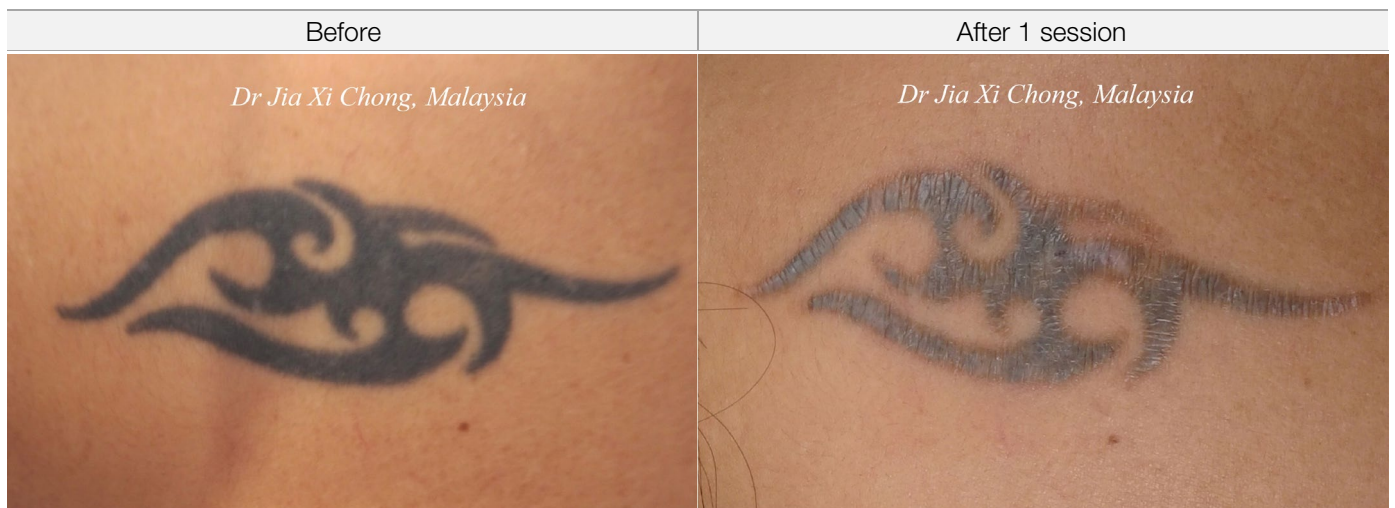
CLINICAL CASE:

Pico laser settings with fractional and black handpieces were used on 2 patients with Fitzpatrick skin type III & IV, respectively. The end point of treatment was frosting of the treatment area. Post-treatment care included regular sunscreen and protection from sun exposure. Four weeks after treatment, the patient was reviewed with clinical photographs to gauge tattoo ink reduction and scar formation.

Immediately in the post-treatment period, no bleeding was observed to accompany the frostings, as with standard QS systems. Good tattoo ink reduction was achieved with no scar formation over 4 weeks. No complications developed in our patients. Patient satisfaction was high as the downtime was minimal and highly tolerable – less than 1 week on average.

Compared to standard QS lasers, picosecond lasers can be useful, from my experience, in terms of shorter downtime, faster healing, as well as lower risk of complications such as scarring and difficulty in reducing stubborn ink particles. I also noticed that the FracTat technique greatly reduced post-treatment edema and erythema, with almost no blister formation after treatment.

The Fotona StarWalker PQX (and specifically the FracTat technique) is good for tattoo ink removal even in darker Asian skin, with a low risk of adverse reactions and high patient satisfaction



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