# Tattoo Removal

**Lo Suk Wah**

Introduction:

Laser tattoo removal is a cosmetic procedure used to remove unwanted tattoos from the skin. It works by using high-intensity light beams to break up the tattoo ink particles in the skin, which are then gradually absorbed and eliminated by the body's natural processes. Complete removal of a tattoo usually requires multiple laser treatment sessions spaced several weeks apart. The number of sessions needed depends on factors such as the size, color, depth, and complexity of the tattoo, as well as individual skin characteristics.

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| Laser | StarWalker QX |
| Wavelength | 1064 nm |
| Handpiece | R28 |
| Fluence | 1.8 – 8.6 J/cm$^2$ |
| Mode | MaQX-1 |
| Frequency | 3 – 8 Hz |
| Passes | 2 |
| Spot size | 2–4 mm |
| Sessions | First four sessions with 2-week intervals, 5$^{th}$ to 8$^{th}$ sessions with 3-week intervals, 9$^{th}$ session after 4 week-interval |

*Ms. Lo Suk Wah is qualified in Professional and Vocational Education from the Education University of Hong Kong. From 1996 to 2003, she worked as a therapist at Modern Beauty. Following this, from 2003 to 2010, Ms. Lo worked as a laser therapist at Ceasar Beauty, where she began working on pigmented lesions and has been working with lasers ever since. Continuing her journey, from 2011 to 2018, she held the position of laser treatment consultant at Classic Beauty. Since 2018, she has been serving as the Manager of Cell Regeneration Salon.*

## CLINICAL CASE:

A 44-year-old female patient with skin type III wanted tattoo removal on her lower abdomen. The parameters used were 1064 nm Q-switched, 6 mm spot size, 3–8 Hz in MaQX-1 mode. At the first treatment, the starting fluence was 2 J/cm$^2$ and was increased at each session by 0.2–0.6 J/cm$^2$ to a final fluence of 8.6 J/cm$^2$. Two passes were done at each session. Anesthesia was used at each session to minimize the discomfort of the patient. Erythema was visible after each session. The first four sessions were performed with 2-week intervals, the fifth to eighth sessions were performed with 3-week intervals, and the ninth session was performed after a 4-week interval. The after photograph was taken one month after the final treatment. No side effects were observed during or after the treatment.

Before

Immediately after one session

1 month after final session