

## Versa Pulse Q Switched Lasers

(Alexandrite, Nd: YAG & Frequency Doubled Nd: YAG)

- Patient's Guide -



### Lions Laser Skin Centre The Skin Care Centre

UBC Division of Dermatology  
835 West 10th Avenue  
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**604-875-4682**

The Versa Pulse Laser has three laser modes: the frequency doubled Nd: YAG 532, the Alexandrite 755, and the Nd: YAG 1064. This is an advanced laser system used to remove excessive melanin (brown) pigment in benign skin lesions such as age or "liver" spots, "sun" spots, freckles, and certain birthmarks (café au lait and nevus of Ota). These laser modes may also be used to remove colored as well as black/blue tattoos.

### Before your Treatment

At your first visit, we will discuss the size, type, and color of your tattoo or pigmented lesion, and the probable results of treatment. In general, amateur tattoos (done with India ink) respond very well to treatment, while professional tattoos can be more difficult to treat. Many benign pigmented lesions can be effectively removed. You will be advised during your consultation how well your particular lesion is likely to respond to treatment. If you agree to proceed with treatment, you will be required to sign a consent form, as with most medical procedures. The area will be photographed before and after each treatment to show your progress. It is important that you do not expose your tattoo or pigmented lesion to the sun for several months before and throughout your treatment. A suntan will prevent the laser light from reaching the tattoo. It is best if you do not take aspirin or aspirin-containing drugs for 1-2 weeks before treatment.

### During your Treatment

If necessary, the hair over the tattoo or pigmented lesion will be shaved. The laser light is directed at the skin using a flexible hand piece held by the physician. Each laser pulse treats an area about the size of a pencil eraser. The laser feels like an elastic band being snapped against your skin. Local anaesthesia is available but most patients usually do not find it necessary. During treatment, everyone in the room must wear protective eye goggles. A single treatment session may last between 15 to 30

## **Skin Care Following Laser Treatment**

1. Keep the site clean. Gentle cleansing twice a day with a mild soap is helpful.
2. If blisters or scabs occur after treatment, avoid cosmetics on or near the treated area until they are cleared.
3. Strictly avoid sun exposure to the site, by keeping the area covered with clothing or with a dressing (e.g. a bandaid). This also applies for at least 3 months after the treatment, since the treated area is very susceptible to sunburn.
4. Use Polysporin ointment (or Bactroban or Bacitracin ointment) twice a day for four days. You may want to cover the area with a loose sterile, non-stick dressing such as Telfa.
5. Do not attempt to remove scabs, scaling or crust by force since this can cause scarring. These will fall off naturally within 1-2 weeks.
6. If any problems, pain, bleeding, or infection (redness or drainage after 48 hours) occur, please call the Lions Laser Skin Centre at **604-875-4682 or 604-875-5151**. For emergencies after office hours and on weekends, please contact your Laser Surgeon (phone number listed in the White Pages).

*The Lions Laser Skin Centre is supported by  
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Division of Dermatology.*

**The information in this document is intended solely for the person to whom it was given by the health care team.**

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minutes. The length of each treatment session depends on the size of the area to be treated.

## **After your Treatment**

Immediately after the treatment, the treated area turns white and swells slightly. Pinpoint bleeding may occur in some treatment sites. The white color fades in about 20 minutes. Over the next several days, blisters may form and then a scab or crust may follow. The skin usually returns to normal after 10-14 days. You must apply antibiotic ointment to the treated area twice a day.

## **Follow-up**

You will receive treatment about once every two months. For an amateur tattoo, on average two to four sessions are required for each treated area. Professional tattoos usually require six or more treatments for each area. Benign pigmented lesions take anywhere from one to six sessions depending on the nature of the lesion. The risks include a change in the color of the treated skin to either lighter or darker than normal. In general, scarring does not occur with the Versa Pulse laser, but it does remain a small risk (up to 1% chance).

## **Cost**

The fees are based on the size of the treated area, and will be estimated at your initial consultation. The fees quoted will be per treatment session as it is difficult to predict the exact number of treatment sessions needed. Neither tattoo nor pigmented lesion removal for cosmetic purposes is covered by the British Columbia Medical Services Plan. The cost of treatment is your personal responsibility and may be paid by cash, VISA, or Mastercard.

## **Questions**

We will be happy to answer any questions during your consultation visit.