

# Abstracts

## NON-LASER METHOD TO REVERSE PERMANENT MAKEUP AND TATTOOS

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### Background and Objective

Recent studies are concentrating on various laser treatments for tattoo removal. The possible side effects associated with laser methods include incomplete color removal, scarring and skin hypopigmentation. This article reported an alternative, non-laser approach to remove tattoos with minimum side effects.

### Materials and Methods

A portable permanent makeup machine, tattooing needles, a topical anaesthetic solution, Bacitracin® ointment and Rejuvi Tattoo Remover (Rejuvi Laboratory, Inc., San Francisco, CA) were used. The tattoo remover was applied using traditional tattoo-over procedure.

### Patients

Ninety-eight patients total, ages 20-50 years, 40 were Caucasian and 58 were Asian. Forty-nine had body tattoos and 51 had permanent makeup (mainly eyebrows). All tattoos were less than 10 years old.

### Treatment Procedures

The tattoo remover paste is applied over an unwanted tattoo or permanent makeup area. The procedure involves four basic steps:

- 1) Puncturing the skin to allow a good contact between the remover paste and the tattoo pigment;
- 2) Extraction of the tattoo pigments by depositing the remover paste into the punctured skin;
- 3) Applying the remover paste over the treated area for further extraction (to be left on the skin 6-8 days and form a scab);
- 4) Application of Bacitracin ointment to help the skin recovery after scab peels off.

### Results

Results varied depending on tattoos or permanent makeup. After the scabs peeled off, the tattoo colors were almost totally diminished. The success rate of tattoo color removal was 100% for permanent makeup and 92% for body tattoos. Scarring rate was 0% for permanent makeup and 6% for tattoos. There were no depigmentation or hypopigmentation problems for either tattoos or permanent makeup. There was significant redness after

scab fell off, but redness diminished over the healing period of 2 to 6 months. Permanent makeup correction healed in significantly less time.

### Discussion

This product demonstrated a good miscibility with tattoo pigments under wet contact conditions. As consequence, the tattoo pigments were softened and detached from the skin tissue. The remover was well tolerated by the skin and gave minimal damage compared with other removal methods. Since the pigment for most permanent makeup is located in the upper or mid-epidermis removal/correction is relatively easy. In contrast body tattoos are generally deeper and require deeper punctures. Moreover, the extraction in steps 1 and 2 resulted in less pigment removal, however, the extraction in step 3 resulted in substantial pigment removal.

### Summary

The chemical extraction technique is a non-color selective, simple, quick and safe method for tattoo removal and removal of permanent makeup. However, skill and experience in tattooing or permanent makeup are required to perform this technique because it is virtually a tattoo-over process.

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## ABDOMINAL CONTOUR SURGERY: TREATING ALL AESTHETIC UNITS INCLUDING THE MONS PUBIS

By Alan Matarasso, M.D. & Steven G. Wallach, M.D.

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### Objectives

Experience with abdominal contour surgery has led us to classify the abdomen into several aesthetic units. These authors reported their experience using this classification system with particular emphasis on the *mons pubis* region.

### Methods

Four hundred consecutive patients requesting abdominal contour surgery were evaluated according to the aesthetic unit principles described. Six patients requesting *mons pubis* contouring and were treated by lipoplasty and/or with horizontal or vertical wedge excision.