**Depigmentation Treatment**

**What is Depigmentation treatment?**

Depigmentation is an aesthetic procedure that removes and lightens skin pigmentation, which may be caused by excessive sun damage, aging, hormonal changes, scars, Vitiligo or Melasma. By directly blocking the cause of the pigmentation, melanogenesis, using active ingredients, one can safely lighten skin tone without any adverse effects of chemical bleaching.

**How does depigmentation treatment work?**

Medical grade solutions with active depigmenting ingredients are applied evenly to the skin with a fan brush. Depending on the goal of the treatment, level of depigmentation required and kind of solutions used, masks are left to stay on the skin for 4-8 hours. After the required time of mask placement, it is then washed and the recommended cream is applied for specific timings of the day as instructed by the doctor, which is also part of the treatment protocol.

**Is the treatment painful? Is it safe? How long will the treatment take?**

A slight stinging sensation may be felt initially but it eventually fades after a few minutes. A manually maneuvered portable fan is used to ensure patient comfort while doing the treatment. Although the mask is required to stay for long periods of time, the procedure itself takes a maximum of one hour only. After the treatment, the client is advised to stay at home and avoid sun exposure.

**How many treatments I need before I see results and how long will it stay?**

Results start to show in 2-3 weeks’ time. Clients with pigmented spots have reported them as untraceable after 4-6 weeks. Maintenance and consistency when using the cream for 12 months is the key to achieving permanent results.

**Can all pigmentation be treated?**

We can safely treat any benign hyperpigmentation, including freckles, sun spots, age spots and café au lait birthmarks.

**Am I a good candidate for laser pigmentation removal?**

A complimentary consultation is required prior to treatment to ensure that you are a good candidate. Patients presenting with raised pigmentation or a history of skin cancer are not candidates for pigmentation removal. The picoway laser system is indicated for benign pigmented lesions removal for fitzpatrick skin types I-III.

**Can all areas of the body be treated?**

Any area of the body can be treated safely and effectively. Our most common treatment areas include face, neck, chest, arms and hands.

**How many treatments will I need and how often?**

Your treatment plan will depend on many factors such as the location, depth, size and type of pigmentation. Some lesions will require several treatments for optimal results, where some can be resolved in a single treatment. On average, patients will need 2-3 sessions for complete removal. Subsequent treatments can be scheduled for four weeks after your treatment.

**When will I see results?**

Most patients will see results after just one treatment. These results will be evident in about 4 weeks, but it can take up to 8 weeks for the full result.

**How often can treatments be performed?**

The frequency of your pigmentation removal appointments will be based on clinical judgment. For most patients, treatment will be performed every 4 – 8 weeks.

**Are the results permanent?**

Pigmented lesions that have been removed will not return after your laser treatments. However, various factors such as aging, changes in hormone levels or UV exposure can stimulate new hyperpigmentation. Laser pigmentation removal treatments do not prevent new hyperpigmentation from occurring.

**How can I get the best results from pigmentation removal?**

We strongly recommend that our patients ‘protect their investment’ by using a high-quality, chemical-free sunblock on a daily basis, rain or shine, summer or winter. Hats are also highly recommended in the summer months. Appropriate protection from damaging uv rays can prevent the recurrence of the hyperpigmentation. For patients that are predisposed to hyperpigmentation, we recommend supplementing your skin care routine with chemical peels and microneedling along with a routine of medical grade skin care products.

Pigmentation removal relies on the lymphatic system to help with the elimination of the treated pigment. As a patient, we suggest daily moderate exercise, such as walking, will also increase circulation and support the lymphatic system. We also use gentle waves photomodulation light therapy, technology used by nasa for wound healing, to accelerate the healing process. In addition, we include a soothing and healing ointment to facilitate advanced healing.

**What can I expect to experience after my treatment? Is there any downtime?**

After treatments, patients typically experience temporary discoloration or reddening of the skin around the treatment site. Make-up can be applied immediately after treatment. Because this laser technology is so gentle on the skin, many of our patients receive treatment just prior to work or during their lunch hour. The picoway laser is the most advanced in the world and features faster, shorter duration pulses. This means that the skin absorbs less heat, which allows for a more comfortable procedure with less downtime when compared to less advanced laser technologies.

**Does pigmentation removal hurt?**

Most patient’s report minimal discomfort and that any discomfort is well worth the results. The picoway laser is the most advanced in the world and features faster, shorter duration pulses. This means that the skin absorbs less heat, which allows for a more comfortable procedure with less downtime when compared to less advanced laser technologies.

Numbing agents may not be used in the treatment area as it can interfere with the efficacy of treatment. However, we do offer cold compresses prior to treatment to ensure minimal discomfort.

**Are picoway treatments safe and are there any side effects?**

Picoway treatments selectively treat hyperpigmentation while leaving surrounding skin undamaged. After treatments, patients may experience temporary discoloration or reddening of the skin around the treatment site.

**Why is the picoway laser the ideal treatment option?**

Other laser technologies use scattered light or intense heat to treat hyperpigmentation. These types of treatments require numerous treatment sessions, causes significant discomfort during treatment and, in many cases, incompletely removes pigmented lesions or may require more treatments to produce reasonable results.

Picosecond technology, has ultra-short pulse durations, 100 times shorter than q-switch lasers, and in the trillionths of a second. These bursts of energy create a photoacoustic impact which breaks up the tattoo ink or pigmentation into smaller, more easily absorbed particles. Picoway’s unique, proprietary mode of action has the highest peak power and the shortest pulse duration of any picosecond device on the market for superior efficacy, safety and comfort.

**Can pay per treatment?**

Yes, at blue water spa all of our treatments are priced per session. Each individual will respond differently to treatment- some may require more treatments while others require less treatments. Clients come back because they have great results. Not because they have a binding long term contract.