



Laser Hair Reduction FAQs

<i>How many treatments does it take to clear an area?</i>
On average 6-8, depending on your skin type it may take more treatments. Generally you can expect to come in for touch up treatments once or twice per year after you have had all of your treatments.
<i>Should I expect to be hair free in the treated area after the series of treatments?</i>
Not necessarily, most patients experience an 80-90% reduction in the amount of hair in a given area, but should not expect to be hair free. Normally there are a few thin, willowy, hairs that we can touch up if they bother you.
<i>Is laser hair reduction permanent?</i>
Laser hair reduction has been in use for some time, and stable hair loss has been reported as far back as seven years, however "permanence" cannot be claimed at this time.
<i>Why does the hair appear to still be there, and will look like its growing for 1-3 weeks post treatment?</i>
The laser does not remove the hair at the time of treatment, but the hair will fall out, or be "shed" 1-3 weeks after treatment.
<i>Why does the laser not work well on blonde, gray, or red hair?</i>
The laser energy interacts with pigment or "melanin" in the hair root, and these hair colors either don't have much/nay melanin in them, or it is of a type (pheomelanin) that does not absorb light as well as the other form of melanin (eumelanin).
<i>Why must patients not use any form of epilation for 6 weeks prior to treatment?</i>
The hair root has to be present for the laser to work, so if the patient has removed it with waxing, plucking, or electrolysis, then there is nothing for the laser energy to interact with.
<i>Why must tanning be avoided for 6 weeks before and after treatment?</i>
Melanin formation in the skin as a response to sun exposure, decreases the effectiveness of the treatment, as well as makes it more likely that the patient will experience hyperpigmentation, hypopigmentation, or blistering from the treatment. <i>Also, very dark skinned people are not good candidates for laser hair reduction because of the active melanin in their skin and could have a reaction.</i>
<i>Why must the area to be treated be shaved just prior, or up to 2 days before treatment?</i>
Surface hair, if present will be singed off, increasing the risk of a burn, as well as taking up energy that does not get to the root of the hair follicle.
<i>Why must protective eyewear be worn by everyone in the treatment room?</i>
It is a high powered laser system, and can cause eye injury if proper eyewear is not worn while the laser is used.
<i>Can any area of the body be treated?</i>
Yes, with the exception of eyelashes, and the shaping of eyebrows due to the proximity of the eye and the danger of eye injury with a laser.
<i>Does the treatment hurt?</i>
There is a stinging sensation felt during treatment, however most patients who have waxed or had electrolysis report that it feels less painful than those types of treatments.
<i>What are possible side effects of laser hair removal?</i>
Side effects can include blistering, hyperpigmentation, hypopigmentation, or scarring. Risks of these side effects are minimized if treatment instructions are closely followed by the patient.
<i>Why is it so important to have a treatment every 4-5 weeks?</i>
The hair grows in three stages and we are trying to synchronize the hair growth to get as many hairs as possible with each laser treatment. The only way to do this is by lasering the hair every 4-5 weeks.