

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) FOR LASER HAIR REMOVAL**

### **"Does it hurt?"**

The vast majority of patients have no problems tolerating the procedure. There is sometimes mild pain associated with laser treatments. This discomfort ranges in intensity and has been described as mild as the snap of a rubber band to the sensation of a hot pinprick. When treating sensitive areas, (upper lip and bikini areas) we often elect to use a topical anesthetic cream, which helps to reduce any discomfort.

### **"How much does it cost?"**

The average cost of a laser hair removal treatment is currently \$225 per laser session. Your charges will be determined by the size of the area you want treated (for example the charges for a bikini-line are less than full legs, etc.). During your consultation visit, you will be given in writing your specific cost and the expected number of treatments necessary.

### **What is the average number of treatments needed?**

4 - 6 treatments\* with a waiting period of 4 to 12 weeks between treatments.

\* Note: Not all people are looking for complete hair removal. This is especially true for men wanting to thin out their body hair. The waiting period between treatments will be different depending upon the body area being treated. This will be determined during the consultation visit.

Hair responds best to laser treatment during the early anagen (growth) phase. All of the hair is never in the growth phase at the same time. Hair in the catagen (regression) phase or the telogen (resting) phase is not thought to be effected by treatment. For these reasons, it always takes multiple treatments to successfully treat all unwanted hair.

### **Who is a candidate for laser hair removal?**

In most cases, patients with "fairer" skin and "darker" hair are ideal for laser hair removal services.

### **What does "darker" hair mean?**

Black and brown hair responds best. This is because the target of the laser is melanin. Hair that has lost its (melanin) color (white & gray hair) will most likely not respond to laser treatment. Blond and red hair may respond minimally.

### **What does “fairer” skin mean?**

The question to first ask to help determine skin type is: "If your skin is exposed to the sun for the first time of the season (without the use of a sunscreen) how would it react? If the skin is affected by light (either burns or tans), it is safe to assume they are appropriate candidates for laser hair removal.

Note: Other than skin type VI (Black skin), the laser can treat hair with varying degrees of effectiveness.

### **Other Issues:**

It is best to for first time patients to stop treating their hair by any method (shaving, clipping, etc.) at least 2 days before their consultation visit. It is important for the doctor to see the area(s) of concern.

### **Is laser hair removal permanent?**

Recent medical studies report that patients treated 4 - 6 times have had no significant regrowth for a period of up to two years. You cannot promise permanent hair removal, however the results of laser therapy have been excellent.