

Midnight Sun Family Medicine, P.C.
S. Gayle Hornberger, D.O.
475 Riverstone Way #5
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
Fax: 907-455-7125 Phone: 907-455-7123

Laser Hair Removal Frequently Asked Questions:

How does the laser remove hair?

The laser emits a beam of light that is attracted to the pigment or melanin in the hair follicle that is in an active growing cycle. A pre-determined pulse duration and energy setting are directed at and absorbed by the hair follicles, disabling the growth of the follicles, resulting in quick, safe and effective hair removal.

What is the advantage of using a laser?

Lasers are precise instruments that can be adjusted to the exact parameters that will specifically disable the hair follicle. The laser uses a wide beam that treats many hairs at once instead of treating hair-by-hair like electrolysis. Because of this, large areas such as your legs, arms, or back can be treated in a short period of time. You will see results that last far longer than tweezing, waxing, shaving, chemical depilation, or other temporary methods.

What does the laser treatment feel like?

The treatment does have a slight prickly or stinging sensation. Most of our clients are able to tolerate the treatment without difficulty. However, since every person's level of sensitivity is different and treatment areas may vary, a topical numbing cream is available.

What happens to the skin after laser treatment?

Reddening of the skin is the desired reaction. The redness usually subsides within a few minutes to a few hours and returns to normal. Since the laser is not invasive in any way, no bandages are necessary. You are able to reapply your make-up, return to work, and continue with your normal daily activities immediately following treatment.

How many laser treatments will I need?

It has been our experience most of our patients are able to discontinue treatments, knowing they will probably need an occasional touchup, after an average of 5-6 treatments. This is providing that the recommended treatment schedule is followed. It is also important to understand, results may vary depending on the individuals hair type, their stress levels, certain medications and different hormone levels. Keeping in mind some individuals require fewer treatments and some will require more treatments depending on the results desired.

Is laser hair removal permanent?

The FDA has cleared laser hair removal regardless of the laser for "Permanent Hair Reduction" only. Based on our experience we believe that the hair treated will probably not re-grow. Each individual's treatment response

may be different because of their hair or skin type and that they have between 500 and 1000 follicles per square inch, of which many are dormant at the time of treatment, we have no way of knowing if and when they may start growing due to stress levels, certain medications and different hormone levels.

What to expect after laser treatment:

After your initial treatment, you should enjoy a significant reduction of hair. However, it will take 2-4 weeks for the treated hair to push its way to the surface and fall out. With each treatment, the hair in the active growing phase will be effectively treated. A follow up appointment is scheduled in 4-8 weeks after each treatment. Keeping in mind the importance of maintaining your follow up appointments.

What if I have gray, white, blonde, red or light fine hair?

Since the laser is attracted to the pigment in the hair follicle, this hair type or hair color may not be treated with the laser. If this is your case call your nearest clinic, they may have options for the treatment you are seeking at their site.