Treatment of a Traumatic Tattoo Using a Picosecond Alexandrite Laser

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Study Design:

• 62 year-old man presented with previously untreated traumatic tattoo of the face from bike vs. car accident several years prior.

• Test spot area made on the nasal sidewall using a 755 nm, picosecond laser at 2.83 J/cm² and a 3 mm spot size.

Results:

• 6 weeks later the test spot showed near complete clearance and the remainder of the lesion was treated using the same settings.

• At 6 week follow up the entire lesion showed near complete clearance that was sustained at 6-month follow-up.

Conclusion:

• While the efficacy of picosecond devices for ink-based tattoo is well established, we report the first safe and successful treatment of a traumatic tattoo with this class of device.

• More subjects and data need to be collected to establish ideal settings and parameters for these traumatic tattoos.