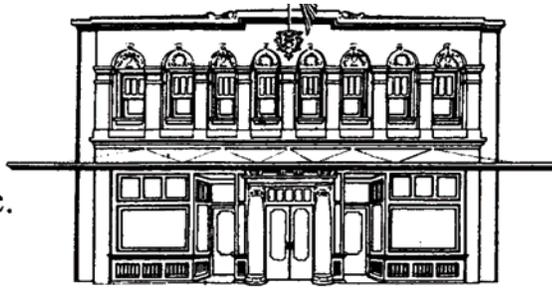


Norman Goldstein, M.D. Inc.
Dermatology



Tan Sing Building
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ALLY WITH A TATTOO ARTIST

'Overtattooing' Technique Can Help Remove Pigment

BY ROBERT FINN
San Francisco Bureau

VAIL VALLEY, COLO. — Dermatologists should be aware of "overtattooing," a pigment removal technique known to tattoo artists for decades, said Dr. Whitney D. Tope at a symposium on cutaneous laser surgery sponsored by SkinCare Physicians of Chestnut Hill.

In overtattooing, the tattoo artist will dip the machine's tip in saline or another nonpigment solution and will tattoo over the existing pigment. According to Dr. Tope, director of the cutaneous surgery and laser center at the University of Minnesota Hospital and Clinics in Minneapolis, overtattooing creates a perforating disorder in which the epithelium grows down around the pigment fragments, picks them up, and eventually extrudes them.

Danny Fowler, a tattoo artist with 33 years of experience who designs and manufactures tattooing equipment through his company, Time Machine Inc. in Roanoke, Va., agreed that overtattooing can be effective for removing pigment.

In an interview with SKIN & ALLERGY NEWS, he said that the technique works especially well for tattoos on the hands, where the skin renews itself rapidly. On other parts of the body, such as the up-

per arm, overtattooing will remove the pigment but may leave scar tissue.

Although some believe that newer tattoos are more responsive to removal by overtattooing, Dr. Tope noted there are no data on this. He recommended that dermatologists develop an alliance with a local tattoo artist who can perform this technique when necessary.

Finding such a partner could prove difficult, Mr. Fowler said, since more and more tattoo artists are purchasing their own Q-switched lasers for tattoo removal. Those who have their own lasers may regard dermatologists as business competitors. Dr. Tope noted that tattoo artists are historically suspicious of physicians, worrying when a physician walks in the door that his or her true intent is to bring down the wrath of the health department on the tattoo studio.

"I think the attitudes are changing," said Dr. Tope. "It's really a matter of creating the right kind of relationship and finding somebody who can do this for you."

In looking for a reputable artist, Mr. Fowler recommended finding "the guy in the worst location with the longest line." This is probably a person who has decades of experience and who has developed a strong local reputation yet has never moved his shop from its original location in an older part of town. ■

1128 Smith Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-5197 • (808) 538-7044
Fax: (808) 523-6842 • E-Mail: skinyouluv@aol.com



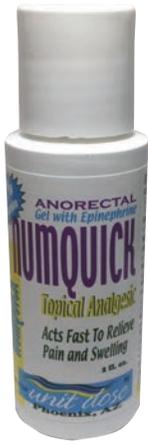
The safe way to fade unwanted color... one dot at a time. FADE lets the color out; it doesn't take color out.



after fade

Open the skin and rub it in!

Open **fade** with care to not spill. Stir Fade well with microbrush. Put scoop of Fade in a pigment cup. Add drop of lime juice. Stir.



1) Buff brow or lip area. Spray on Numquick 5% spray and wait 10 min.



before fade

2) Using your machine or a handtool, open the skin.



Mix FADE with Neutral Flesh about half and half. Some add a drop of lemon or lime juice. Now you are ready to rub this mixture into the open skin. Do not tattoo it into the skin, please. Rub, rub, rub.



3) Rub **fade** into opened skin and let sit about 10 minutes.



4) Wipe the area clean and inspect the area. Do not over work the skin. Be patient!



5) Repeat one time, applying **fade** directly to the open skin. Dab more fade, let dry, and wipe clean. You'll see a few droplets of blood. Leave alone and let dry with FADE. Repeat monthly as needed.





Open the Skin and Rub it In



FADE is not a pigment removal and contains no acid. Fade “lets” the color out. Here’s how:

FADE is kaolin paste which has been used by doctors for centuries to help draw out impurities

from wounds. It can be used on eyelids, brows and lips. **Do not tattoo in FADE. Only rub it into open skin.**

When you open the skin, the epidermis wants to quickly restore itself as a barrier. However, it can seal in color, bacteria, foreign bodies, etc. When you “rub in **FADE**”, the little holes are plugged. The result?

FADE keeps the skin open so that it can heal from the bottom up instead of from the top down.

This allows the color that is in the skin to be pushed out in the scab during the healing process.

You get color out of the skin the same way you put color into the skin. Specifically, you open your skin with dry needles, no pigment.

Take a Good BEFORE photograph of area to be corrected.

Step 1: Apply topical anesthetic to desired area as usual.

Step 2: Open skin with dry needles by hand or with machine (#3 or 5 slant). You should see the smallest pinpoint of blood so you know you are in the dermis.

Step 3: Stir **FADE** paste well.

Step 4: Put **FADE** into a pigment cup and add 1-2 drops lime juice and stir well. **Lime Juice**

Step 5: Rub **FADE** thoroughly into open skin. Set timer for 10 minutes.

Step 6: At the end of 10 minutes, clean area gently with cotton swab and Eyewash (not water).

Step 7: Repeat the dry needle over the desired area ever so gently again.

Step 8: Rub in a matching flesh color of pigment. Best colors: Neutral Flesh, Perfect Flesh or Camelot.

Step 9: Wait 10 minutes.

Step 10: Remove excess pigment with damp swab but make sure flesh pigment is covering area completely.



Step 11: Instruct your client to NOT put anything on her skin. Just clean her skin and leave it dry. She should keep skintone foundation or camouflage makeup over the area.

Step 12: Make sure you take a good BEFORE and AFTER picture.

Step 13: Make follow-up appointment with client in 4-5 weeks. Instruct her to keep the area covered with camouflage makeup and not to pick at the area.



Note: Keep lime juice out of eye