



Laser Hair Removal Questions

- 1. What is laser hair removal?**

Energy from the laser targets the hair follicle, causing thermal damage to the hair follicle and thus preventing further hair growth.
- 2. Does laser hair removal work on all hair types and color?**

No. Laser hair removal works best on dark terminal hair (thicker hair) rather than very fine light hair. It is the pigment in the hair follicle that absorbs the laser light emitted by the system, causing damage to the follicle. Laser hair removal therefore works better on darker hair since this hair has more pigment than blond or light colored hair.
- 3. Is hair removal permanent?**

You can expect a 70-90% reduction of hair within 3-5 treatments.
- 4. Is it safe?**

As with any medical treatment, there can be some side effects, but fortunately, these seem to be minor and transient. The precise laser parameters were carefully defined by studying the anatomy of the hair follicle, resulting in a safe technique that eliminates any risk of scarring and significantly reduces complications.
- 5. Is it painful?**

There may be some mild discomfort during treatment, and this can be lessened with a topical anesthetic cream applied prior to the procedure. Fortunately, the treatments are fast and allow for long term hair removal, which is a benefit over hours of repeated waxing, shaving, or electrolysis.
- 6. What will the treated area look like after treatment?**

The treated area will have some slight swelling, redness, and tenderness. This should subside within a few hours and return to normal appearance. Any discomfort felt should not limit daily activities.
- 7. What other complications have been associated with the treatment?**

Some patients may experience transient pigment changes to the skin, but careful patient selection will minimize these problems. In addition, patients with a history of cold sores who are treated on the upper lip, chin, or cheeks may develop a recurrence. One can reduce this risk by taking antiviral medication prior to treatment.
- 8. How long does the procedure take?**

This will depend on the size of the area being treated. Small areas like the upper lip may take 5-10 minutes, whereas legs and back may take longer.