

# MedLite C6 and RevLite Remain Gold Standards for Tattoo Removal

By Bob Kronemyer, Associate Editor

Since its debut in 1992, the MedLite laser from HOYA ConBio (Fremont, Calif.) has been a preferred choice for tattoo removal. The original MedLite introduced PhotoAcoustic technology to the dermatology community, harnessing high peak power and nanosecond pulse duration to target chromophores via a photomechanical action. Today's MedLite C6 continues to use this energy and has evolved with sophisticated engineering, enhanced power and greater efficiencies.

With four wavelengths (1064 nm, 532 nm, 650 nm, 585 nm), the MedLite C6 laser "allows us to treat a multitude of colors rather than being limited to the standard blue/black ink," said David Berman, M.D., a dermatologist with practices in Palo Alto, San Francisco and Walnut Creek, Calif. "For treating green or some of the sky blue colors, we often reach for the 650 nm or 585 nm wavelengths, respectively."



Before Tx  
 Photos courtesy of www.Dr.Tattoff.com



After five RevLite treatments



Before Tx  
 Photos courtesy of David Berman, M.D.



After Tx



**David Berman, M.D.**  
 Dermatologist  
 Palo Alto, San Francisco and  
 Walnut Creek, CA

On average, patients schedule five to eight sessions, spaced four to six weeks apart. "We hope to clear the entire tattoo after a series of treatments; however, we try to give realistic expectations to everyone," said Dr. Berman, who noted that following a series of treatments, a majority of patients achieve at least 90% clearance. "Treating these tattoos from the beginning with the appropriate wavelength allows for better clearance and fewer sessions."

Furthermore, the MedLite C6 "is more protective of the epidermis, so we are no longer observing the epidermal injuries as with earlier generations of lasers," Dr. Berman explained. "People are walking away with no bandages, no bleeding."

The more recently introduced RevLite is built on the same versatile Q-switched Nd:YAG foundation. "This laser is much faster to treat colored tattoos, so it makes the experience more comfortable for the patient," said Will Kirby, D.O., F.A.O.C.D., an associate professor of clinical dermatology at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, Calif. Dr. Kirby will be among the first physicians to receive the new RevLite Smart Infinite (SI) handpiece, allowing for more precise spot size adjustments (in .1 mm increments) at optimal fluences. "We will have the ability to be more precise in the depth of the ink being treated. The handpiece will be more powerful and versatile," he said. "In the past, we were treating sort of indiscriminately – just pointing at the



**Will Kirby, D.O., F.A.O.C.D.**  
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 Clinical Dermatology  
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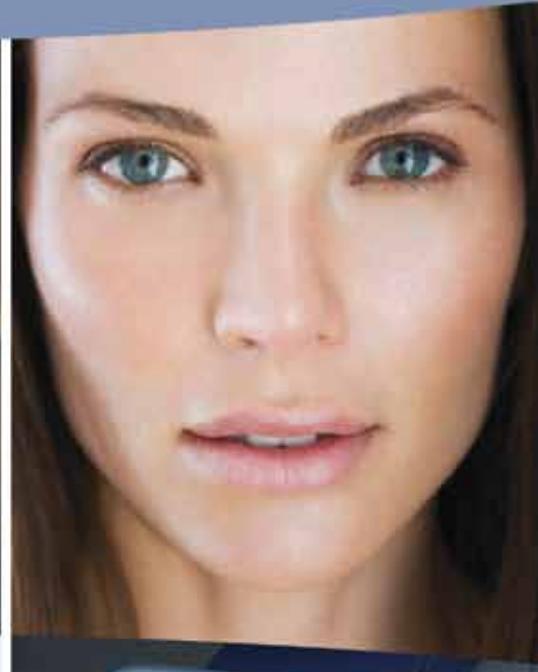
ink and hoping for the best. That is no longer the case."

With four clinics in the greater Los Angeles area, Dr. Kirby and his team have supervised and performed over 90,000 laser procedures on more than 14,000 patients. "I believe the RevLite is the gold standard for tattoo removal," he stated. "The results it offers are very predictable and reproducible. You want the first patient of the day to have the exact same treatment as the last patient of the day."

The flat-top beam profile found in both lasers helps deliver consistent and successful results. "Since the beam is flat, it easily and evenly penetrates into the tattoo itself," said Dr. Kirby, whose proprietary treatment protocol (the Kirby-Desai Scale) for tattoo removal averages approximately ten sessions, spaced a minimum eight weeks apart. "Results vary from very good to phenomenal for the vast majority of tattoos. The average tattoo is 4 square inches, which takes about one minute to treat."

Dr. Kirby values PhotoAcoustic technology because it causes minimal epidermal damage, yet achieves selective ink destruction. "People don't have the bleeding and scabbing associated with traditional tattoo removal methods," he said. "Although patients are often embarrassed about their tattoos, we can erase a past problem. Laser tattoo removal not only helps people physically, but psychologically and emotionally as well."

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more than one type of skin.



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