

Sinon Ruby Laser Proves Highly Effective for Tattoos

By **Bob Kronemyer**, Associate Editor

Physicians who have become disenchanted with ruby lasers for cosmetic procedures may change their mind once they try the Sinon laser system from WaveLight Laser Technologie AG (Erlangen, Germany). The 694 nm ruby laser can operate in two different modes: Q-switched for the removal of tattoos and treatment of benign pigmented lesions; and long-pulsed mode for hair removal in patients with skin types I and II.

“The Sinon is very effective and very easy to use,” said Waddah Barghouti, M.D., a practicing physician in Amman, Jordan. “Our two most popular indications are tattoo removal and a host of pigmented lesions.”

Typically, tattoo removal consists of two to three treatment sessions, about six weeks apart. “Tattoos

“Tattoos almost completely clear up after two or three treatments.”

almost completely clear up after two or three treatments,” Dr. Barghouti said. “For pigmented lesions, two to four sessions are required, again at roughly six week intervals. Depending on the lesion, there is a 50% to almost 100% clearance.”

For hair reduction, Dr. Barghouti has seen excellent results when treating fair-skinned patients. “Patient selection in terms of color of hair and skin is of prime importance.” Most patients need four to six sessions.

Dr. Barghouti, who began using the Sinon in February, has used Q-switched ruby lasers before. “But I find the Sinon easier to use and faster,” he said. “Results are consistent. Everything is clearly laid out and changing from one mode to another is simple, but we mostly use the Q-switch mode. Changing the handpiece and spot size are also relatively easy.” Spot sizes range from 3 - 9 mm.

“We are very happy with the Sinon. It is a tool that distinguishes our practice from all other practices in the capital of Jordan,” Dr. Barghouti said.



Before Tx



After Sinon Tx

Photos courtesy of Eric Bernstein, M.D.

Eric Bernstein, M.D., a clinical associate professor of dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania in Bryn Mawr, Penn., is equally enthused about the Sinon laser. “I’ve always preferred using a ruby laser for tattoo removal, but the older tattoo lasers are not very reliable. They are slow and do not have a whole lot of peak power. In contrast, the Sinon is awesome. It has a ton of power and a high repetition rate. It blows tattoos away.”

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The laser has a very high energy output with a 5 mm handpiece. “In fact, there is enough energy to use a 7 mm spot at a repetition rate of 2 Hz,” Dr. Bernstein said. “You’re able to treat four times as quickly compared to the older ruby lasers. It only takes a few minutes for a tattoo session. Unlike previous beliefs that ruby lasers are not effective for



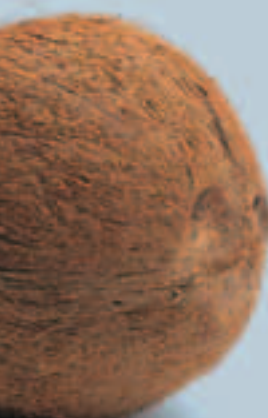



removing green or blue tattoos, my preliminary results with the Sinon indicate that it is definitely up to the task.”

Tattoo removal is Dr. Bernstein’s most popular indication for the Sinon laser. “Amateur tattoos can take one to two sessions, while professional tattoos can take six to ten treatments. I usually treat at six to eight week intervals. Patients are seeing great results. Many of the patients I have successfully treated with the Sinon where I failed to progress with either the alexandrite or YAG laser.”

Improvements can also be seen in freckles and Nevus of Ota (a birthmark around the eye). “Freckles can be treated in a single session,” Dr. Bernstein said. “However, Nevus of Ota can take a number of sessions, just like a tattoo.”

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“It is really an outstanding laser. It is very well designed and built extremely well. The laser is sleek, does not take up much space and is easy to maintain,” Dr. Bernstein explained. “It is also easy to balance the handpiece, so it feels basically weightless. I am absolutely ecstatic, and my patients are delighted with the results. Because of WaveLight’s innovations, the cost should be more affordable than past ruby lasers. Overall, the Sinon has resurrected the ruby laser market. The ruby laser is alive and well, and better than ever.” ■

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