

Electrolysis for Hair Removal



What Causes Unwanted Hair Growth?

Hair growth is the result of heredity and hormone levels. Also, some drugs, temporary methods of hair removal, and illnesses can stimulate hair growth. Electrolysis may be an option when hair growth is in an area of the body where it may not be desired such as on a woman's upper lip, chin, or bikini line.

How Many Electrolysis Treatments Will I Need?

Many factors influence hair growth, so you will need to return for several electrolysis visits. The total number of sessions needed to remove hair permanently from a particular area will vary from person to person. Most clients return once a week or every other week as needed. But the unwanted hair will be gone forever once the series of treatments is complete. Each treatment lasts between 15 minutes and one hour.

How Electrolysis Works

The hair follicle is a tube-like depression of the skin that contains each hair. The Dermal Papilla is actually a part of the follicle and controls the growth and development of the hair. Tweezing or waxing will remove the hair shaft but the dermal papilla still remains. Electrolysis hair removal is the process of removing hair permanently by means of electricity. The term 'Electrolysis' has become synonymous with both the multiple needle galvanic method and the more modern single needle short-wave method. A fine probe follows the hair shaft to the dermal papilla; at the same time a special type of electrical current destroys the papilla. The loosened hair shaft is then removed. Regrowth hair is thinner and becomes more fragile with each treatment. This is the optimum time for re-treatment otherwise the hair will rebuild to original strength negating the original application. In some cases, two or more treatments to each follicle may be necessary to achieve permanency. Once the dermal papilla has been completely eliminated, further hair growth from the follicle is not possible.

Myths About Electrolysis

Myth: Electrolysis is very painful. For most people, today's methods don't cause a lot of pain, but it can hurt. If you find it too uncomfortable, your doctor may be able to give you an anaesthetic cream.

Myth: The electric tweezer method is permanent. The FDA and the American Medical Association recognize only electrolysis as a permanent method of removing hair. Some states prohibit those using or selling the electric tweezer from claiming it provides permanent hair removal.

Myth: Temporary methods of hair removal can be better. Chemical depilatories (liquids or creams) are often used to remove body hair. These products contain irritating chemicals and can be time-consuming and messy. Likewise, bleaches contain harsh chemicals and do little to disguise dark hair. They may also discolour skin. Waxing is another temporary method of hair removal and is usually done in salons. A hot wax is applied to the skin and removed once it has dried over the hair. The hair is stripped off when the wax is removed. Waxing can be painful and costly. Home waxing kits are available, but they can be messy and difficult to use. There are electrolysis devices available for home use, but they are often unsafe for use by anyone who is not trained in electrolysis.