

The colour may fade over time, and you may wish to have further micropigmentation in the future.

A follow up appointment will not be made after your final visit, but you may contact the department at any time to discuss any questions or concerns.

Please note

This procedure may show up as an artefact on scans and some patients experience a tingling sensation in the treated area when undergoing an MRI or CT scan.

Please let the radiologist know you have undergone medical tattooing.

Contact numbers

Breast Unit (Clinic 14):

- 01623 622515, extension 3515
- 01623 672273 (direct line).

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net. This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

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INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Micropigmentation

A guide to medical tattooing

Micropigmentation (medical tattooing) is used to create the image of an areola and nipple for women who have undergone breast reconstruction.

Micropigmentation is carried out using a small electrical machine which holds needles that make tiny holes in the surface of the skin to allow implantation of special pigments to create shading.

The needles are used once only.

Please note

An exact colour match cannot be guaranteed as the colours heal differently in all individuals. Colours may appear very exact and intense immediately following treatment but will lighten within 7-14 days. Lighter colours fade faster than darker ones and all colours change with time.

Laser treatment used for hair removal can permanently alter the colour of any pigments which contain the ingredient titanium dioxide.

Titanium dioxide is present only in the lighter and white colours.

If you are concerned regarding allergic reaction to the pigments a skin patch test can be performed.

Before treatment

Please let us know, before your treatment starts, if you have any known allergies, for example metals such as nickel, or to local anaesthetic.

Please telephone the Breast Unit on 01623 622515, extension 3515, to rearrange if you are going on holiday within six weeks of your appointment, or unable to attend for any reason.

Before the treatment a colour match will be performed. The colour will be mixed using the special pigments. It may take some time to obtain the correct shade.

Treatment

Micropigmentation may be painful; therefore, a local anaesthetic will be applied prior to the treatment. It will be left on for 20-30 minutes to take effect.

The area will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution and the area to be tattooed will be marked. The pigment will be applied to the area. The procedure will take approximately 15 minutes. The area will be cleaned and a dressing applied.

Aftercare

Shower the dressing off after 24 hours.

You may have swelling around the area for the first few days.

Crusting, similar to a graze, can appear at the treated area - it is important to leave this alone. Use a moisturiser on the area once the crusting has disappeared.

Avoid hot baths and the use of perfumed bath products until the area is fully healed.

It is not recommended that you bathe in chlorinated water, for example a swimming pool or jacuzzi, until the area is fully healed.

Once the treated area has healed it can be exposed to the sun. Waterproof sunblock should always be applied to the area to prevent pigment changes.

Some people may have a reaction to one of the pigments used for tattooing. This may result in swelling or itching. If there is any heat, redness or pain, please contact your GP.

Further tattooing

You may require two or three treatment sessions before the right effect is achieved.