

## AREOLA RE-PIGMENTATION

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Almost every month is “cancer” month. When I was a child the “C-word” was only whispered. Now it seems everyone has been affected in one way or another by cancer.

If you or someone you know is a victim, it is often difficult to know where to start, especially with Breast Cancer. Naturally, self-examination and physician examination is the beginning, but after that, trying to get answers and solutions is more difficult. The average person – male and female – is at a loss as to what to do next. Support from a family physician and various cancer information centers are great first steps...there is some amazing information and direction available. But there is always something new happening on the “cancer” scene that they may not have immediate access to.

That’s the difficult part for those who have new and innovative suggestions to make...trying to get the message out and proving its credibility, not only to the general public but more importantly to the agents, agencies and medical community who have the greatest exposure to those who need it most.

### MICRO PIGMENT IMPLANTATION

Micro pigment implantation is not a new procedure and has been around for thousands of years. It is now being used in a new way.

So what exactly is micro pigment implantation? They say Cleopatra had micro pigment implantation. A series of tiny dots of colour are placed just below the basal layer of the skin which effectively adds a tint to it permanently. How is that possible? A tiny implement which acts like a sewing machine perforates the skin creating a vacuum which sucks the coloured pigment into itself.



### RE-PIGMENTATION OF AREOLA

You might have figured out by now that micro pigment implantation and tattooing are one and the same thing. Yes, it’s a tattoo – a process that was once taboo but is now being applied in many para-medical ways including the re-pigmentation of nipples and areola for breast cancer patients.



Adding the finishing touch to a post-mastectomy breast after breast reconstruction can take as little as 45 minutes. Many breast cancer mastectomy patients have reconstruction of their breasts done with implants to give back the volume to the breast, but don't know what to do about reconstruction and more importantly re-pigmentation of the nipples and areola. That's where – micro pigment implantation comes in.

### **HOW IS MICRO PIGMENT IMPLANTATION OF THE AREOLA DONE?**

Micro Pigment Implantation is the tattooing in of a natural areola or skin tone colour into the reconstructed breast tissue. The technician has a virtual blank canvas to work on except for scar tissue in the areas of the incisions.

The correct positioning of the areola is determined with precise measurements using something called a “Penn’s Triangle”. There are also tools to determine the size and proper shape of the areola and colours can be individually customized to the patient’s own skin tones.

Although this procedure is on the inside, the most important thing is the improvement it makes to a person’s appearance, self-confidence and overall quality of life. It is a simple procedure that takes little time with no side effects and can be life-changing.