

Cost and Insurance

Insurance plans, including Medical Assistance, may cover hair removal for the purpose of pre-surgical preparation for a gender affirming surgery. Gender affirming hair removal of other areas of the body, such as the face, may have some level of coverage or reimbursement by some insurances. Check with your insurance company to understand coverage benefits.

After all treatments are finished, electrolysis is often more expensive than laser hair removal. Laser hair removal is usually more expensive per hour.

What Are the Side Effects?

Temporary redness, swelling, or skin irritation are possible after either laser hair removal or electrolysis. Icing or special creams may be recommended after laser hair removal. Skin pigmentation changes are possible with laser hair removal. In general, electrolysis requires less care after each treatment.

For resources on laser hair removal and electrolysis in MN, reach out to our patient resources specialist at max@familytreeclinic.org / 612-454-0738 or talk to your Family Tree provider.

Please note: This brochure gives general educational information on laser hair removal and electrolysis. Talk with a professional such as a dermatologist, electrologist, or laser hair removal technician to determine the best option for you.

Laser Hair Removal & Electrolysis 101



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What is Laser Hair Removal?

Laser hair removal uses lasers to target the hair follicle and pigment of the hair. The heat from the laser will damage the hair follicle and prevent regrowth.

Potential Benefits

- Significantly faster than electrolysis
- Reduction in hair usually seen after first treatment, with continued results after additional treatments
- Average of 3-12 sessions needed for long-term results, depending on hair type and area of body

Things to Note

- The laser targets pigment so if the skin tone is darker than the hair color, electrolysis may be recommended instead
- Not as permanent as electrolysis. Maintenance sessions or electrolysis may be needed for permanent removal
- May not be suitable for every area of the body (for example, not recommended for hair removal around the eyes)

What is Electrolysis?

Electrolysis is an FDA (Food and Drug Administration) approved hair removal method that targets each hair at a time by inserting a small probe into the hair follicle. The probe sends electrical currents to damage the follicle and prevent regrowth.

Potential Benefits

- Permanent removal of hair
- After hair is permanently removed, usually no maintenance sessions are required
- Because it is permanent, it is often a good option for surgical preparation (for example, before vaginoplasty or phalloplasty)
- Suitable for all skin types/tones, hair type/colors, and areas of the body

Things to Note

- Takes significantly longer than laser hair removal to remove the hair and usually sessions are longer
- For people that are good laser candidates, it may be beneficial to do laser hair removal first and then electrolysis after