Waxing, Shaving, Tweezing

By Kathleen Bowers

Universal Electrolysis

Tired of the daily war against body hair? Consider electrolysis — a dependable, permanent and proven technique for years

Summer is upon us and once again you are faced with waxing, shaving or tweezing those unwanted hairs nobody could see during the winter months. How nice would it be to not have to worry about those pesky hairs! With electrolysis not only is the hair gone permanently but the skin is left soft and smooth with no bumps, rashes or stubble. The following are a few of the most commonly asked questions about electrolysis and how you can get more information about it.

Q. What is electrolysis?

A. Electrolysis is the only FDA-approved method of permanent hair removal available.

Q. How does electrolysis work?

A. Electrolysis is the art of using a fine gauge, sterile, polished probe that is gently inserted into a hair follicle. A small amount of electrical current is passed into the hair follicle, which damages it so new hair can not grow.

Q. Does electrolysis hurt?

A. Electrolysis can be uncomfortable for some people as everyone has a different tolerance for pain. Certain areas of the body are more sensitive than others. Some have described the sensation as warmth, or a quick flash. Topical anesthetics are available without a pre-scription from many pharmacies. These topical anesthetics are applied to the skin prior to treatment to help numb the area.
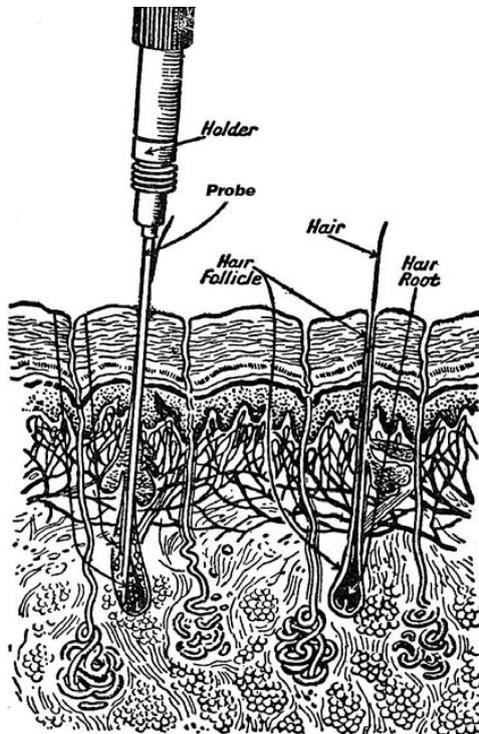
Q. How long does electrolysis take?

A. That is a difficult question to answer because there is no set answer. A good rule of thumb is to plan on a year for longer, more frequent treatments at the beginning and shorter, less frequent treatments as clearing of the area occurs - but it can take longer.

Q. Can anyone receive electrolysis?

A. Almost anybody can receive electrolysis treatments. Some people cannot receive treatments at all or can only have treatment in limited areas. A detailed consultation will be conducted before beginning treatments of any kind to ensure there are no problems that would conflict with electrolysis treatments.

Q. What areas can be treated with electrolysis?

A. Most areas of the body can be treated successfully. Some of the most common areas are the eyebrows, chin, upper lip, underarms, bikini line and face. Electrolysis can also be done on almost any other area of the body where there is undesirable hair using one of three different types of electrolysis.

Q. How many different types of electrolysis exist?

A. There are three types: single proble or thermolysis, galvanic and the blend. Each procedure has its advantages and disadvantages. Single probe is the quickest and is good for straight hairs such as on the face, but is not as effective on curly hair such as on the bikini line. Galvanic uses a chemical reaction and is effective on curly hairs but is a slower process than single probe. The blend combines the best of both procedures and is good for highly resistant hairs such as gray hair or areas that have been waxed or tweezed extensively.

Q. What can I expect during my first appointment?

A. A detailed medical questionnaire will be completed to make sure it is safe for you to receive electrolysis treatments. Then time is spent educating you about electrolysis, your expectations, hair growth, and care of the skin after treatment. A sample treatment can be done and plenty of time is allowed to answer any questions.

Q. Where can I find more information about electrolysis?

A. The American Electrology Assocaition has a web site at www.electrology.com and the Society for Clinical and Medical Hair Removers is www.scmhr.org. You can also call Universal Electrolysis for more information or to schedule an appointment at 892-3410.

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