



Permanent Cosmetics & Microblading

The difference between traditional tattoo and permanent cosmetics
By Julia Trigila

What is Permanent Cosmetics?

According to *The Society of Permanent Cosmetic Professionals*, "Permanent cosmetic makeup is cosmetic tattooing. The specialized techniques used for permanent cosmetics are often referred to as "micropigmentation", "micropigment implantation" or "dermagraphics". The cosmetic implantation technique deposits colored pigment into the upper reticular layer of the dermis".

What is Microblading?

Microblading is a permanent cosmetic technique with a hand held non mechanical tool that has a group of needles lined up in a row. The purpose of this is only to hold the ink in between the needles to implant into the skin. The needles are then glided over the surface of the skin in one direction or in a stipulating manor to create hair like strokes or shading.





This is one session of microblading and will require a touch up in 6-8 weeks.



Work by
Julia Trigila



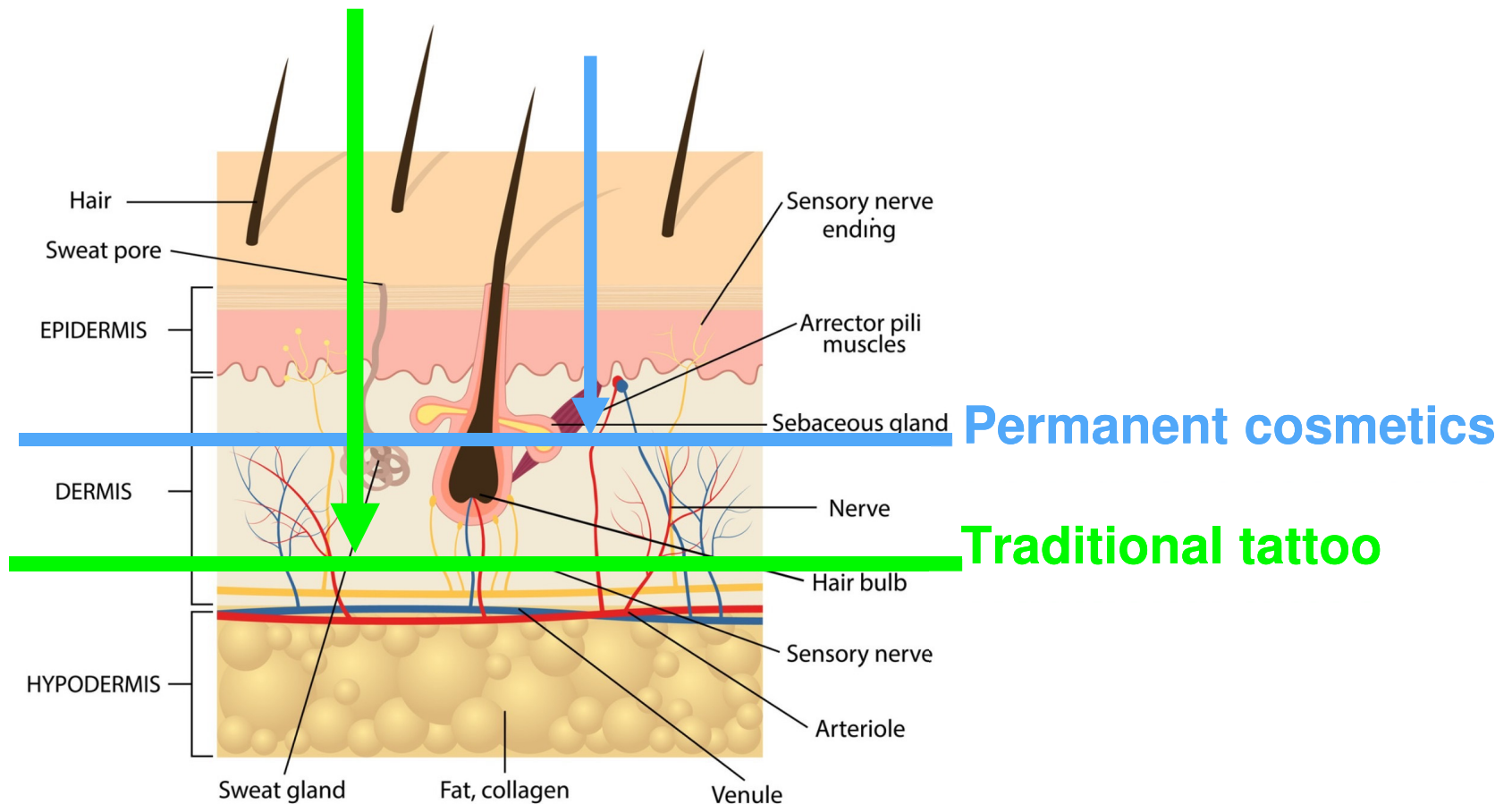
2 Methods are used for eyebrows. Top photo used a traditional tattoo machine with a nano needle to deposit more pigment. Bottom photo is the hair stroke method that can be used done with microblading or a machine with a nano needle as well.

What is the difference between traditional tattoo and a cosmetic tattoo for the face?

Any facial tattoo for the purpose of cosmetics should only be implanted no lower than the upper third layer of the dermis. Anything lower can result in change of color, and particles of pigmentation separating, causing blurring blurred lines.

Secondly, due to the precision and sensitivity of facial tissue, nano needles from at little at 0.15 mm to 0.25mm are used.

The thinnest layer of the skin is on the eyelids and approximately 0.1-0.3 mm thick. The thickest skin, on the feet and palms, is 1-2 mm. Given the sensitivity of our face, thinner needles as well as the depth of the needle is what sets permanent cosmetics apart from traditional tattoos.



What Type of Permanent Cosmetic Procedures can be Done?

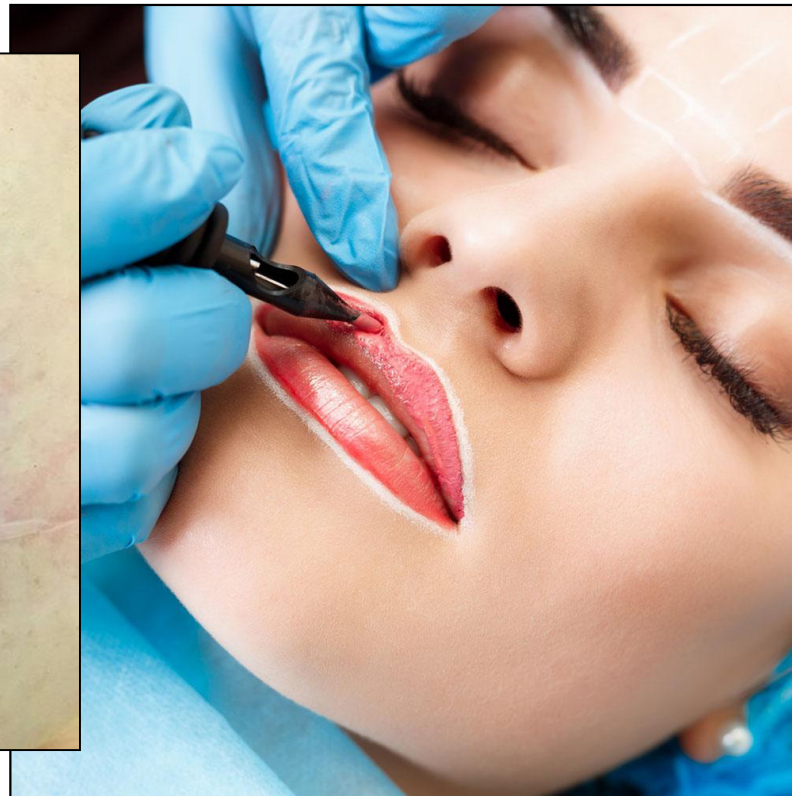
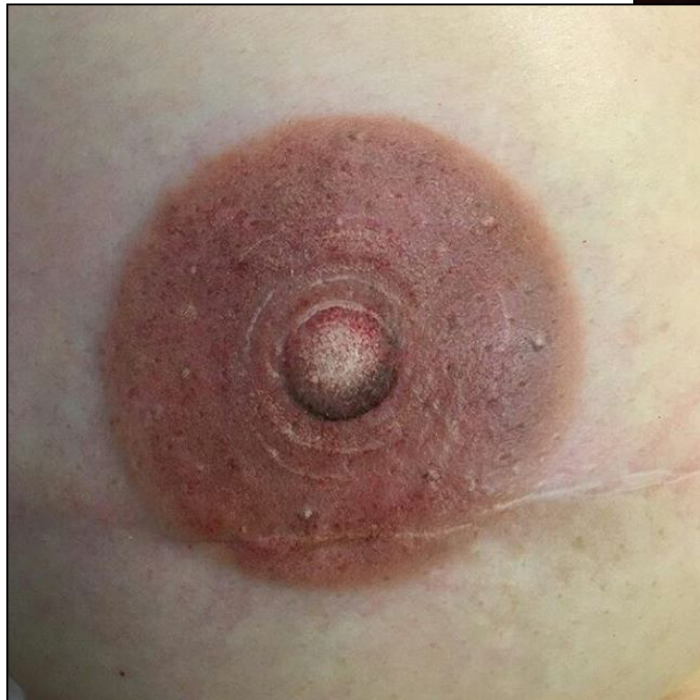
Permanent Cosmetic procedures can be very subtle or dramatic depending on what you are looking for. Options include:

Eyebrows

Eyeliner, Top and Bottom

Lipliner, Lip Color, and Blend

Scar Camouflage, Beauty Marks, Hair imitation, Lash Enhancement, and Areola Repigmentation



Is there such thing as 'SEMI-PERMANENT'?

Some states suggest "Microblading" is semi-permanent due to its superficial placement under the skin and because it does in fact fade over time. However, there is no time frame you can place on this. Each person fades at a different speed depending on different factors, such as skin type, skin care regimen, following or not following proper aftercare instructions, sun exposure, sweating, etc.

Microblading does not disappear and the skin is back to its original state. There will always be scar tissue even if it's not visible to the eye. While it may fade in some cases 100 percent, most do not weather a stroke or 5 are left behind.

Currently the state of Connecticut considers any implantation of pigment into the skin as permanent.



Is it semi-permanent?

Some are promoting microblading or eyebrow embroidery as a semi-permanent process; and that the color only reaches the epidermal (outer) layer of the skin. A careful review of basic skin anatomy and physiology would reveal this is not true. By definition and tattoo industry standards, color is tattooed/implanted into the dermis of the skin. If pigment particles do not reach the dermis, they will disappear during the healing phase of the skin, during normal regeneration of cells at the epidermal level. Pigments do fade in the skin over time, but that does not make the process semi-permanent. It is impossible to predict how much pigment will fade away and how long it will take to do so with any measure of consistency or reliability.



Removals?

Currently the state of Connecticut DOES NOT allow any tattoo removal by anyone other than a licensed nurse or physician, usually by way of laser. However, with the more modern facial techniques, laser is not always considered the best of safe for facial tattoo removal. Rather, a manual version of microblading using saline water or other stronger solution

Lasers are not needed for this process.



Is a blade being used to perform the microblading tattoo procedure?

Microblading is performed with a grouping or configuration of needles affixed to a handle to manually create lines that resemble eyebrow hairs. Manual methods of tattooing have been used through the ages, and the tools have gone through changes over time from pre-historic sharpened stones to the hand tool devices currently being used. An actual scalpel or cutting-type blade should not be used under any circumstances as these are considered medical devices and cannot legitimately be used for this process. Any hand tool device (i.e., both handle and attached needles) used for microblading should be pre-sterilized and fully disposable.



Why does microblading not last as long as other eyebrow tattooing techniques?

This is simply because a much smaller amount of pigment is inserted (tattooed) into the skin as compared to fully or solidly filled eyebrow tattoos.

Is there less training needed to learn microblading as compared to learning permanent cosmetics?

No; if someone is new to the industry and does not already have a minimum of 100 hours of training in permanent cosmetics, they need to have a similar amount of training in microblading, even if it is for just that one type of procedure. There are many areas of study when learning these techniques, which include facial morphology and bone structure, brow shaping and design, color analysis, color theory, proper handling of equipment, prevention of cross-contamination, as well as practice work and the opportunity to observe procedures before actually performing them under supervision. Anyone interested in pursuing training in cosmetic tattooing, including microblading, should first check with state and county regulating agencies. This would also include verifying the qualifications of any trainer, in addition to checking with regulatory agencies for trainer compliance with local health, safety, or permit requirements if the trainer is traveling from another state or country to offer training.

*Some Information provided by SPCP The Society of Permanent Cosmetic Professionals at SPCP.ORG

