

## ELECTROLYSIS GUIDE

For over 100 years electrolysis has been recognised as a safe reliable method of hair removal . It is the only medically approved form of permanent hair removal (British Medical Association) & was invented & refined by Doctors. This permanent removal is however achieved over a period of time and is not a miracle cure.

Unwanted hair is a major concern for both men & women & the idea of never having to wax, thread, shave, epilate, bleach or pluck certain face or body parts ever again is extremely enticing. Electrolysis is a course of treatment that permanently removes hair growth (regardless of skin tone or hair colour) when performed by skilled practitioners.

Electrolysis has the longest known track record for permanent hair removal. Dr. Charles Michel first used it successfully in 1875 to remove ingrown eyelashes. He discovered that once the follicle had been destroyed the hair was permanently removed.

### *How does electrolysis work?*

Electrolysis involves the insertion of a very fine, disposable, pre packed sterile probe (the same diameter as the hair) into the hair follicle, which is a natural opening in the skin. A tiny amount of energy, for a few seconds is then skilfully discharged into the follicle to cut off the blood supply from the hair. The only sensation felt by the client is heat passing down the probe to the base of the follicle. The treatment can be adapted to suit each client's skin, hair & pain threshold. During a course of treatment there will be a constant, gradual decrease in growth of the hair until it has all been permanently removed.

Electrolysis is a progressive treatment meaning that the hair will grow back but it will get weaker throughout the course of treatment. The first sign that electrolysis is working is that the hair growth becomes softer, finer & lighter in colour.

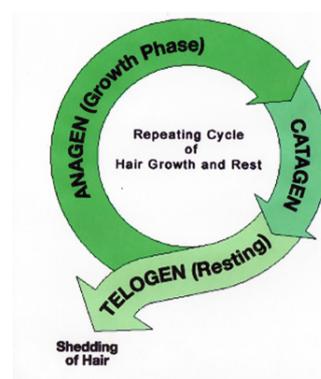
Following treatment clients will be given strict

aftercare instructions to adhere to in order to support the electrolysis treatment.

### *Hair growth cycle & re growth*

Electrolysis involves the treatment of each individual hair & so by its nature is time consuming. There is usually a certain amount of hair that cannot be treated immediately, especially where there is a lot of growth to treat .

Hair growth continually occurs as new hair cells are formed at the base of the follicle. The male sex hormone (present in both men & women) activates specific areas of the body to produce hair. Hair growth varies greatly between individuals & the specific areas of the body. Scalp hair grows an average of one tenth of an inch weekly. Leg hair grows at about half that rate. The life cycle of hair follicles, that is, the repeating cycle of growth & rest phases, affects overall hair production. No new hair follicles are produced after birth - the appearance (and disappearance) of hair is the result of changing ratios in the growth / rest cycle. This life cycle is distinguished as three separate stages:



**Anagen phase** - the active growth stage

**Catagen phase**- the transitional stage of arrested growth

**Telogen phase**- the resting stage of the hair cycle

The ANAGEN phase is where a newly formed hair begins to grow. This growth phase continues for a time lasting as little as several weeks (like the upper lip area) or lasting as long as several years (like the scalp area). Depending on the area of the body, gender, hormonal & other factors, growth lasts for varying lengths of time.

But ultimately the growth begins to slow & is known as the CATAGEN phase. This slowing continues into the third & final phase - a period of inactivity or rest

During the TELOGEN or resting phase the hair has separated from the papilla & is no longer able to be provided with nourishment. At this point no more new hair cells are formed & the inactive hair remains in place until it is eventually shed. Then the follicle becomes active again & the cycle starts over.

***The resting phase or telogen phase plays an important role in electrolysis:***

Generally a follicle cannot be treated successfully (& thereby destroyed) during the resting phase. Focusing on the chin/jaw area as it is of prime importance, almost half its' hairs are in the resting phase at any time. And depending on the area of the face, this resting phase may last anywhere from 6 to 12 weeks duration. So even if every hair could be permanently removed from the chin/jaw, from the very fine & slow growing to the thick & robust, only one half could be killed.

So it is understandable that clearing (the complete removal of hair) of an area of unwanted hair such as the chin/jaw will take a considerable amount of time.