**ELECTROLYSIS FAQ**

If you would like to talk to us about Electrolysis please enquire about an appointment for a consultation.

You can contact us by

* phoning us during the day 09 2787564
* email us imagesbeauty@xtra.co.nz
* or [book online here](http://imagesbeauty.co.nz/online-booking/).

Consultations cost $20 but this price is redeemable against treatment.

**How hair grows? - Stages**

Hair grows from the follicle, or root, underneath the skin. The hair is ‘fed’ by blood vessels at the base of the follicle, which give the hair the nourishment it needs to grow. Between starting to grow and falling out, each hair passes through four stages: anagen, catagen, telogen and exogen.

Every hair is at a different stage of the growth cycle.

But you must understand hair growth phases and the hair growth cycle in order to understand how to electrolysis works. Your skin and head is covered with hair follicles.

At any given time your hairs are in various stages of growth and shedding.

**1. Anagen (Growing Phase)**

The anagen, or growing, phase usually lasts 6 – 12 weeks (fine or coarse body hair or eyelashes) to 7 years (head hair), and the length of this phase determines the length of our hair.

Hair usually grows at approx ½ inch or 12 mm per month.

Visualise a “spring onion” as being a hair – the white root part is similar to a hair root and the green part is the hair shaft. The only living part of a hair is the root area. The only way to effectively kill the hair follicle (stopping future hairs) is to destroy the root growing area in the follicle. The hair root receives blood in that area and the easiest time to stop future hairs is to treat the follicle during a hair’s growing (anagen) stage. This is why we insist on regularly spaced treatments, usually between 1 and 6 weeks. Longer gaps don’t usually get the desired results.

This is the most important time to receive any damaging treatment such as Electrolysis or IPL or Laser in order to kill or damage, the blood supply to the hair follicle, hair germative cells and papilla. Each treatment either decreases the next hair size (thickness) or stops future hairs completely.

**2. Catagen (Transition Phase)**

This transitional phase usually lasts about ten days. During this stage, the hair follicle decreases in size and detaches from the dermal papilla. It is no longer receiving any blood or nourishment.

**3. Telogen (Resting Phase)**

The telogen or resting phase lasts around 3 months. While the old hair is resting, a new hair begins the growing phase. The resting hair moves higher inside the follicle until it is at the very entrance or is just about to fall out of the follicle. The new hair cells are developing into a tiny “baby hair” deep inside the hair follicle tunnel. It can take 3 months before the baby hair finally replaces the old hair. It is this 3 month phase that controls the speed of the treatment as it takes these 3 months for every cycle to complete and the new hair to emerge. It is the lack of this new hair that indicates successful hair reduction or complete permanent hair removal.

**4. Exogen (Shedding Phase)**

The exogen represents the period from when a resting hair reaches its final position in the follicle to when it finally detaches. This is a part of the resting phase where the old hair detaches and sheds, and new hair continues to grow finally emerging out of the hair follicle.

**What is electrolysis?**

Electrolysis is the science of using electricity to produce either heat or create a chemical reaction in either a hair follicle or in skin tissue utilizing a probe device.

An Electrologist is a trained therapist specializing in treating U[nwanted Hair](http://imagesbeauty.co.nz/our-treatments/electrolysis/electrolysis-permanent-hair-removal/) using a fine sterile probe inserted into the hair follicle and the small amount of electric current is discharged, destroying the hair follicle and preventing it from producing another hair.

An Advanced Electrologist is trained in Advanced Electrolysis treating Red Veins and Benign Lesions such as Skin Tags or Sebaceous Hyperplasia. The fine probe is inserted into the skin (usually only a 1 to 2 millimetres) and the electric current is discharged either cauterizing the blood supply or creating a chemical within the lesion which destroys the lesion.

**Our electrolysis machines**

Over the past 30 years Christine has worked with 7 different electrolysis machines starting with a very basic **Carlton** Electrolysis machine during training and progressing to working with 2 **Blok Blend** (manual) machines from 1986 to 1998 (12 Years).

In Oct 1998 Christine purchased Images and began working with a **Silhouette-tone** Electronic Electrolysis Machine and a **Skinbod** Electronic Electrolysis Machine in 2000. In 2012 Images replaced the Silhouette with our first **Apilus Senior** Computerized Electronic Electrolysis Machine, from Canada with incredible time and current adjustments which enables Images to offer Gentle, Less Painful Electrolysis to its many electrolysis clients.

**News** – Due to high demand Images recently purchased our second **Apilus Senior** Electronic Computer Controlled Electrolysis Machine. With 2 full time Electrologists and nearly 200 Electrolysis Clients per month, 2 machines will allow greater appointment availability.

Christine and Satwinder have a machine each now and are able to offer more flexibility with appointment bookings.

Computerized Electronic Electrolysis machines enable an Electrologist to provide a superior treatment with accurate and precise electrolysis settings with millisecond and microsecond time control.

The **Apilus Senior Machine** 3G is the quickest, the most powerful and the most comfortable 13.56 MHz technology on the market (in the world). It integrates the exclusive iMM-Pac option and offers more than 10 treatment modalities as well as 1080 programs, allowing the Electrologist to adapt to all situations. Its high performance and versatility makes it the most popular electrolysis device in the world.

Every person experiences electrolysis differently and your Electrologist must be able to adapt to your specific hair type, skin type, skin texture, moisture level and sensitivity.  We customize your electrolysis treatment for maximum comfort, speed and most importantly permanency.

**Electrolysis vs IPL/Laser**

Electrolysis is the oldest method of permanent hair removal.

Electrolysis works on all hair colours and any skin colour.

IPL and Laser are fantastic alternative technologies but do have limitations such as skin colour and hair colour and very fine hair and cannot be used on some areas of the body such as near eyes (eyebrows), ear lobes.

Electrolysis works on blonde, white or pale and very fine hairs.

Electrolysis can be used on very dark skin.

**How does Electrolysis works?**

It involves the application of an electrical current to the root of a growing hair.
The hair root is then either killed or partially damaged and when and if the hair regrows again it becomes thinner.
When electrolysis is done correctly, it is done gradually, over a period of months and possibly years.
The hair then becomes either so thin that the hair is nearly invisible or the hair has completely stopped growing.
A very strong painful dose is needed to kill a hair completely in one dose but this is harmful and a very strong dose can burn the healthy skin surrounding the hair and will possibly cause a scar. Your therapist will prefer to give you smaller doses to gradually shrink and kill the treated hairs.
That is why we try to work gently and carefully.
It is very important that your therapist also inserts the electrolysis needle accurately into the hair follicle.

**How long does Electrolysis take to work?**

Depending on the thickness of your hairs (to be treated) the average time to kill or permanently eradicate a hair is roughly 6 to 12 months.

It may take up to 24 months (2 years) to totally eradicate every unwanted hair in a specific area.

It is very important that your hairs are treated within a few weeks of their appearance.

The lifecycle of your hair can vary from 6 weeks to 12 weeks.

If you do not treat within this time window the hair becomes too old, rises to the surface of your skin and has a white bulb. An older hair therefore means that any treatment carried out at this time is effectively useless and a waste of time, effort and of course money.

Healthy growing hair has a dark/ black bulb and is deeper in the skin.
Sadly some clients may never completely become hair free.

This does not mean electrolysis is not working; it is however, an indication of another systemic problem, i.e. a strong hormonal disorder that continually stimulates hair to develop.

Sometimes, once a disorder is diagnosed, and that disorder is then treated, the symptoms of hair growth can be kept under control.

**Areas we do electrolysis**

Electrolysis is a treatment used to permanently remove unwanted hair on almost any part of the body, apart from deep inside nostrils, your eyelashes and genitals.

Common areas for treatment are – face, chin, lip, brows, sideburns, back of neck, chest, breasts, bikini line area, back, tummy, arms, legs, toes, and fingers. And yes, a few clients have asked to have their nostrils and ears cleared! Don’t be afraid to ask!

**What does it feel like**

When done correctly, electrolysis feels like a small insect biting you, with a warm pulse and a slight tingling sensation.

Some people hardly feel this and can relax easily, after a few minutes you may find your skin warms and you no longer feel much.

We are able to experiment with our electrolysis machine settings and lower or increase the current according to the sensations you are feeling.

After the hair has been treated, the therapist will then tug on your hair –if the hair has received enough treatment it will gently slide out.

If the hair has not had enough treatment, you might feel this tug, your therapist will then reapply the current again, retest by tugging and your hair will slide out.

NOTE – ELECTROLYSIS should not feel like constant tweezing, nor should it feel extremely painful.

When all the hair has been treated and tweezed out, we apply a soothing roller with a small electric charge that soothes, cools and calms your skin and then we apply some Aloe Vera gel to begin the healing process.

**Contraindications**

**Who can not have electrolysis? Contra- Indications i.e. health problems.**

What is a Contra-indication – Someone with a medical condition or problem that could stop or interfere with procedure?

For Example:-
Metal implants, Pace maker, recent operations in the area to be treated,
High Blood pressure, Low Blood Pressure, Heart Conditions, Diabetes, Hepatitis, Aids, Herpes, Cold Sores, Skin Disorders, Skin Injuries or wounds, Sun Burn, Burns, Keloid Scarring, Bruises,
Some Conditions require a Doctors Permission – Epilepsy and Moles.

**Skin Reactions**

Immediately after treatment the Area appears slightly red, raised, swollen with possible small red spots

Redness and swelling can last 1-8 hours.
**After 24 hours** Skin appears calm- no redness or swelling.
**After 2-3 days** Usually there is no sign of swelling, however if hairs are just below skin surface these can start to appear and also cause inflammation as they push themselves through the skin.

**If skin heals with small scabs/crusts**

These scabs will appear as tiny dots where hair has been treated.

These scabs form over each insertion point.

These will disappear in 7-10 days.

DO NOT REMOVE SCABS!!!

But please inform your therapist.

This can be an indication of current being too strong.

Your therapist will then alter your electrolysis settings to suit your skin.

**If skin heals with small pimple**

These are like small wounds which can mean a reaction to the after care or cross infection.
Again please inform your therapist.
A change of after care and extra care during the healing period is usually indicated.

**Homecare/Aftercare**

It is important to read the following:
**During healing period after each treatment: (1-3 days +)**

* Do not rub with flannels or towels
* No exfoliation, scrubs or peels
* Use masks with care
* Protect skin from the sun
* No picking
* Do not use thick, oily cosmetics
* No soaking baths
* No swimming (especially immediately after treatment)

**Products to apply to skin**

* Aloe Vera plant – Natural gel / Pure form
* Aloe Vera based gel (Images Burn Cream)
* Calamine type products
* Antiseptic soothing creams

**Electrolysis Prices**

Consultation $20 but redeemable against treatment.
5 mins                   $20
10 mins                 $28
15 mins                 $35
20 mins                 $40
30 mins                 $50
45 mins                 $60
60 mins                 $70
over 60 mins       $1 per min