

THE
ULTIMATE
SMP
CLIENT GUIDE

**EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET THE
BEST SCALP MICROPIGMENTATION RESULT**

THE ULTIMATE SMP GUIDE FOR CLIENTS

Welcome to the ultimate guide on how to get a great scalp micropigmentation (SMP) procedure. If you're considering SMP, you're on the path to a life-changing decision. A well-done SMP treatment can boost your confidence and transform your appearance, making you look and feel incredible. However, like any significant transformation, there are potential pitfalls. Bad results can be devastating, which is why being well-informed is crucial.

WHAT'S IN HERE?

In this guide, we'll cover everything you need to know to ensure you get the best possible SMP experience. From frequently asked questions to debunking common myths, and the essential questions you should ask your potential artist during a consultation, we've got you covered

NO SALES, NO NONSENSE—JUST STRAIGHT FACTS

Here is the best information you need to make an informed decision. No sales pitches, no fluff, just the straight facts to help you navigate the SMP process with confidence and clarity.

Education is your most powerful tool in this journey. By understanding the process, knowing what to look for in an artist, and being aware of the red flags, you can confidently choose an artist and know you made the right choice. This ensures you walk into your SMP procedure with peace of mind and walk out with results that exceed your expectations.

GET PREPARED

Let's dive in and get you fully equipped! This guide will arm you with all the tips, tricks, and insider knowledge you need to confidently choose the right artist and ensure stellar SMP results tailored just for you. Get ready to transform with confidence!

FAQ

ANSWERS TO THE MOST IMPORTANT & COMMON FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is scalp micropigmentation (SMP)?

Scalp Micropigmentation (SMP) is a non-surgical cosmetic procedure designed to create the appearance of a closely-shaved head of hair or added density to thinning hair. This is achieved by applying specialized pigments to the scalp using precise needles with a precise technique. The goal is to mimic the look of natural hair follicles and the early hair shaft, either just before or just after it emerges through the skin. The result is tailored to match the unique characteristics of each client's scalp, ensuring a natural and realistic appearance.

How does scalp micropigmentation work?

SMP works by using specifically shaped and sized needles to deposit pigments into the scalp, creating tiny impressions that will resemble a full head of hair that's been shaven. This technique gives the illusion of a fuller head of hair or a closely shaved head.

Is scalp micropigmentation a permanent solution?

Absolutely. After several years some results may require a slight touch up

Does scalp micropigmentation hurt?

SMP should not be painful. It can be uncomfortable, and some areas may be more sensitive than others, but you should not be in pain.

Will I bleed?

No. Bleeding is not common. You may have a few random spots that may get 'pin point' bleeding which is a little bit of blood mixed with lymphatic fluid (similar to what happens after you pop a pimple) but even this is very minor.

Will I have scabs, crusts and/or shedding like a traditional tattoo?

No you should not experience this and it could be an indication that the artist is going too deep, using too much pressure and/or using the wrong angle of needle insertion. When SMP is done properly the healing process is very mild.

Is there down time after an SMP procedure?

Generally no. In most cases any redness will subside in 4-6 hours and in severe cases maybe 24 hours. It may feel tight and mildly sensitive like a minor sunburn, but that's about it.

Will SMP change colors over time?

This should never happen. An experienced artist is well educated in color theory. They understand the relationship between skin color, hair color and ink selection. A skilled and experienced artist should know how to use several ink colors and shades to get the perfect look that lasts and never changes to an unwanted color.

FAQ

ANSWERS TO THE MOST IMPORTANT & COMMON FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How many sessions are typically required for a complete scalp micropigmentation treatment?

The typical protocol is 3 sessions with a possible 30-60 day follow up perfection session. This is because the ink must be layered properly into the skin over multiple sessions to get the best possible result

I don't want a dark result, do I still need 3 sessions?

Yes. The SMP process is all about building the structure of ink in the skin properly. So no matter how dark or light, multiple sessions are needed.

Can I choose any hairline I want?

Essentially, yes. A skilled artist will guide you to make the best choice.

How is the hairline shape and style chosen?

It is important that the artist analyzes your facial shape, facial proportions, head shape, age and your personal style.

Can scalp micropigmentation be done on any hair color or type?

Scalp micropigmentation can be done on various hair colors and types, including bald heads, thinning hair, or receding hairlines. The pigments used can be customized to match your natural hair color and skin tone.* It is important the artist you work with is educated in color theory.

How long does a scalp micropigmentation treatment take?

The duration of a scalp micropigmentation treatment can vary depending on the extent of the area being treated. On average, a session can take anywhere from 2 to 4 hours.

Are there any side effects or risks associated with scalp micropigmentation?

When performed by a skilled and experienced practitioner, scalp micropigmentation is totally safe. However, like any cosmetic procedure, there are potential risks such as infection, allergic reactions, or dissatisfaction with the results.

Is there any reason I wouldn't be able to get the treatment?

Your scalp should be in good condition - this means no severe dryness, no bacterial or fungal infections, no sunburns etc. If you have any unhealed cuts or scars they would need to heal. If you have any skin anomalies - anything red, raised and or scaly you should consult a dermatologist. You must be at least 18, not pregnant or breastfeeding and can not be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

FAQ

ANSWERS TO THE MOST IMPORTANT & COMMON FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much does scalp micropigmentation cost?

The cost of scalp micropigmentation can vary depending on factors such as the size of the treated area, the complexity of the treatment, and the experience of the artist. For a skilled, experienced artist the average cost can be between \$1,000 and \$5,000 dollars. Price should not be a main deciding factor in your artist choice. You can always find someone cheaper. This is your scalp, your everyday appearance. Don't risk it to save a few bucks.

How long does scalp micropigmentation last?

Scalp micropigmentation is permanent. In some cases after several years you may need a touch up. The longevity of the treatment can vary depending on individual factors such as skin health, sun exposure, and lifestyle habits.

Do I have to completely shave my head for SMP?

No, not necessarily. It depends on your hair loss and hair growth pattern. SMP should always look perfect when completely shaved. It is typical for the artist to need to cut your hair as short as possible so that they can clearly see the hair loss as well as the follicle growth pattern.

Can scalp micropigmentation help with thinning hair or hair loss?

Absolutely. It will create the illusion of density and a fuller head of hair. However, it is important to consult with your artist to see if SMP is a suitable option for your specific hair loss situation. Depending on your level of loss and the pattern of it, a density job may not be the best move and you will need to shave it.

What happens if I do a density treatment and my hair loss continues ?

This should not be a problem , a touch up can be done. HOWEVER it is very important that the artist NEVER goes darker to suit the density than they would if the head was shaved. If so, it will look unnatural.

Can women get SMP?

Absolutely! It is an incredible solution for female pattern hair loss.

Can scalp micropigmentation be reversed or removed?

The only way to do this is with laser removal. Lasers are very high quality these days and will do the job just fine. If you are unsure about getting SMP and worrying about if you can remove it - you may not be ready for it.

Are there any specific aftercare instructions for scalp micropigmentation?

Aftercare instructions for scalp micropigmentation typically include avoiding excessive sweating, sun exposure, and any chemicals for about a week. Keep it clean and apply the aftercare that your artist suggests. Avoid healing with petroleum products. It is important to follow the specific guidelines provided by your artist to ensure proper healing and longevity of the results.

FAQ

ANSWERS TO THE MOST IMPORTANT & COMMON FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is scalp micropigmentation suitable for people with scalp conditions?

It depends on the conditions. If the skin is irritated or has any red, raised or other anomalies a dermatologist should be consulted.

Can scalp micropigmentation be done on scars or areas with hair transplant scars?

Absolutely. It is an excellent method to camouflage scarring and can be executed on previous donor areas.

Can scalp micropigmentation be done on people with alopecia?

Absolutely, it is a wonderful solution for all types of alopecia. However, you should find an artist that has previous experience working with these conditions.

How long do I have to wait after a hair transplant to get SMP?

A minimum of 6 months is required- and that is only if everything is completely healed. There should be no redness and no pain to the touch.

Will scalp micropigmentation look natural?

Absolutely, that's the whole point. When performed by a skilled practitioner, scalp micropigmentation will look completely natural and undetectable.

How soon can I resume my regular activities after a scalp micropigmentation treatment?

The first 4 days are the most important to healing (it takes 96 hours for a wound to close) so you'll want to minimize any activities that cause sweating, avoid water activities and sun exposure for at least 7 days. For the most part there is no downtime for your regular everyday life.

Can I wear a hat after the procedure?

Yes you can. Just make sure that the hat is clean. Avoid letting the hat rub on the treatment areas.

Can scalp micropigmentation be combined with other hair transplants?

Absolutely. It can be an excellent complement to hair transplants. The SMP must be done before, or at least 6 months after a transplant procedure.

FAQ

ANSWERS TO THE MOST IMPORTANT & COMMON FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I pay by the session or for the entire treatment?

The most experienced high level artists charge for the entire job. This is because they know exactly what needs to be done, they take their time and often may do another session to make sure it's absolutely perfect. This process should always take at least 3 sessions although it may require more. Some artists charge the full fee up front, this way they know the client is committed to sticking to the treatment schedule which is extremely important. Others may split the total costs over the sessions. You should know what the total price is going to be before you get started.

Paying per session is not ideal. For example, the client may think it looks great after 2 sessions - but the artist needs a 3rd to add the final touches so you get the best looking result and best retention. Often times this procedure requires the artist to be conservative.. You wouldn't want them to rush to get it done in fewer sessions. On the flip side of that how would you feel if the artist keeps saying he needs to do another session? Whether the artist needs to or they aren't being honest, it could make for an uncomfortable treatment process.

Can I swim or participate in water activities after getting scalp micropigmentation?

It is generally recommended to avoid swimming or participating in water activities for at least a week after getting scalp micropigmentation to allow the pigments to settle and the scalp to heal. Your practitioner will provide specific instructions.

Can I shower after a treatment?

It's best to wait at least 24 hours to take a shower. For the first 4-7 days it is important that if you shower that you use cool/ luke warm water and keep the shower time short.

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Can I go in the sun regularly with my SMP?

Absoltely. Wearing a good SPF sunscreen is always suggested. Sunlight does not make your ink fade away. What it does do is damage the epidermis (top layer of skin) and this will make the ink that is placed in the dermis below it appear poorly.

THE TRUTH BEHIND COMMON MYTHS

SMP will change to blue/green colors after time

Answer: The truth is, YES it absolutely can, however there are ways to make sure it doesn't. The main reasons this can happen are:

- 1) improper technique
- 2) wrong ink choice for the skin color.

Many results look off colored because of the way diluted black ink reacts with certain skin tones and undertones. A great SMP artist understands this and is well educated in color theory. This means they know how to use different ink mixes that will cancel out any unwanted tones.

SMP is Semi-Permanent or will fade away with time.

NO. SMP is absolutely permanent. There is no such thing as semi-permanent scalp pigmentation. Ink does not just magically leave your body.

SMP is not a Tattoo.

Yes, it is. Although it is a highly specialized method of tattooing, it is still a tattoo.

SMP goes into a different layer of the skin than a traditional body art tattoo.

Yes this is true, but let's get specific. Your scalp has 3 layers of the skin, the epidermis, dermis and hypodermis. Now the dermis has 2 parts - the Papillary Layer (top part, more stable) and the Reticulated Layer (bottom part, not stable). SMP should always go into the papillary layer. Tattoo artists utilize BOTH parts of the dermis depending on the effect they are looking to create.

SMP can be done in 1 session

The magic behind a great SMP result is completing it over several sessions. The reason for this is so that as the body heals and the pigment settles, the impressions can be re touched or 'layered' in the next sessions. This creates a structure of ink in the skin that is similar to the natural hair follicle and early hair shaft. Layering over multiple sessions is what creates the full, 3d, realistic look.

SMP should always be done with a 1rl needle

This is not true. The most widely used needle format is the 3rl (3 tiny needles that come together to form a single tip) as it has more benefits than a 1rl (single needle). Using a 1rl is fine if that's what an artist prefers, or needs to use in specific cases. A skilled artist should know how to use their tools properly - as there are many needle shapes and sizes.

THE TRUTH BEHIND COMMON MYTHS

SMP Ink is just rebottled tattoo ink

The most reliable brands have formulations that are unique and created for working on the scalp. However, a lot of times it is or a very close version of it. An easy way to check is simple, check the ingredients. Ask the artist what inks they use. Any reliable brand has their ingredients and safety information listed publicly. Compare that to any popular black tattoo ink (do a google search)

SMP should only be done with black ink.

This is definitely not true. The best SMP artists understand color theory. This means they understand how to utilize different colors of ink for different skin tones so they can achieve natural results and match the natural characteristics of the client.

Whats the deal with 'colored' inks?

Colored inks are the latest innovation in the evolution of SMP. After over a decade of analysis, research and development colored inks have become the new standard. The purpose of 'colored inks' is to work with the clients skin undertone to create balance. This helps make a great match for the clients natural characteristics and protects against unwanted tones in the end result. They are also used for working with long hair, especially women when looking to achieve some sort of 'brown' result to blend better with the hair and skin colors.

SMP 'Dots' always eventually fade away and end up looking like a single shade.

This should not happen, but the truth is, this does happen a LOT. When the right technique, and the right ink is used, the 'dots' will maintain their shape, size and saturation

An SMP artist should never hit the same impression again.

One of the most critical aspects of SMP is called layering. This is the process of retouching the impression over several sessions. This is what creates the most realistic look with the best retention and is a core component of SMP technique.

Ink vs. Pigment

These words get thrown around a lot. Technically speaking; pigment is a powder that is mixed with other ingredients to create the final product called ink. However, many artists use these words interchangeably to refer to the same thing - this is normal.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR ARTIST BEFORE YOU HIRE THEM

Tell me about your experience?

The best artist's have solid experience and can prove this with their portfolios.

Can you tell me about your training?

This can give you a lot of insight about the quality of their skill

Can I see some of your healed work?

Long term results are the most important and are the best indicator of a quality artist.

Can you explain your process?

Any credible SMP artist can explain their process in detail and will be happy to do so. They should also be able to answer any questions about it.

How do you choose the ink you are going to use for my treatment?

The artist should be able to give you a detailed explanation of this.

Do you have knowledge of color theory?

The best artist's have a thorough understanding of color theory. This means they know how to use various ink colors and shades to work with any skin tone and hair color

Do you only use black ink?

Artists who are only trained in using black ink are very limited in the art they can create. Many people will not heal the right color with just black.

What inks do you use?

The best artists use high quality inks that are made specifically for SMP. The ones with the most knowledge use a variety of tones and not just 1 black, 1 brown, 1 modifier.

Do you utilize the layering technique?

Layering is a core fundamental component of SMP. Over multiple sessions the impressions get retouched. This is one of the main reasons for SMP results to look realistic.

Are you licensed and insured?

A professional SMP artist should always be licensed (except for states that do not require licensing). They should also carry the proper insurance .

HOW TO SPOT BAD WORK

As you research to find the right artist, it's crucial to meticulously examine their portfolio of work. Don't let flashy marketing distract you from what truly matters: the quality of the results. Understanding how to critically analyze photos and videos is key to identifying subpar techniques. Pay keen attention to the finer details. Below are some essential tips to help you effectively evaluate an artist's results.

- **SMP results should look natural and undetectable.**
- **The color should look natural and not have overly blue, green or purple hues.**
- **You should be able to see skin or “negative space” in between impressions**
- **Look for any ‘clouding’ under the impressions. This is what we call ‘dermal staining’ which over time becomes worse and worse.**
- **The hairline should look natural and not completely fake. “Barber style edge ups” are ok as long as they are done well and suit the clients face and personal style.**
- **Each client should have a unique result. If all of the photos look like the exact same application on every person, this could be a red flag.**
- **There should be no visible ‘blow outs’ or ‘mega dots’.**
- **The impressions should look consistent across the scalp and resemble natural characteristics.**
- **SMP should never look like a flat shade of color with no identifiable impressions.**
- **The impressions should not look like perfect circular dots.**
- **The impressions should look clean and crisp, no cloudy edges.**
- **the SMP work should blend seamlessly into the existing hair .**
- **Look out for patches of inconsistent density**
- **The placement of the impressions should look organic and real, you should not see any identifiable lines or other geometry.**
- **If the artist is not following proper clean working protocols - they should always be wearing gloves and their machines should always be completely wrapped and protected.**
- **Trust your gut. If something looks “off” but you are not quite sure what it is - most likely it is.**

THE ULTIMATE SMP GUIDE FOR CLIENTS

Thank you for taking the time to read through our Ultimate SMP Guide and we hope that all of your questions were answered, and even some you didn't know you had. Our goal was to empower you with the knowledge and confidence needed to make the right choices on your SMP journey.

Remember, the key to a successful SMP experience lies in preparation, research, and trusting your instincts. The more informed you are, the better equipped you'll be to choose the right artist, avoid potential pitfalls, and achieve the outstanding results you deserve.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

Now that you're armed with all the information, it's time to take the next step toward transforming your look. Here's what you can do next:

1. **Research different artists.** Make sure to check out their portfolio—don't just settle for the artist closest to you.
2. **Schedule Consultations:** Start reaching out to artists who meet the criteria we've discussed. Don't hesitate to ask the tough questions—this is your transformation, and you deserve the best.
3. **Compare Options:** Review your notes, compare artists, and trust your gut. It's important to feel completely comfortable with the artist you choose.
4. **Prepare for Your Procedure:** Once you've selected your artist, follow their pre-procedure instructions closely to ensure the best possible outcome.
5. **Embrace the Transformation:** After your procedure, take the time to adjust and enjoy your new look. Remember, SMP is about enhancing your confidence as much as your appearance.

THE ULTIMATE SMP GUIDE FOR CLIENTS

STAY CONNECTED

Your SMP journey doesn't end once the procedure is done. Staying informed and maintaining a relationship with your artist is essential for long-term satisfaction. If you ever have questions or concerns after your procedure, don't hesitate to reach out to your artist or consult the resources we've provided.

We're also here to support you. Whether you need advice, have follow-up questions, or simply want to share your success story, we'd love to hear from you.

FINAL THOUGHTS

SMP is more than just a cosmetic procedure—it's a way to reclaim your confidence and redefine how you see yourself. By taking the time to educate yourself, you've already taken the most important step toward achieving the look you want.

Thank you for trusting us to guide you through this process. We're excited for you and can't wait to see how SMP transforms your life. Here's to a confident, revitalized you!

To schedule a FREE consultation, visit
<https://sculptedstudios.com/book-smp/>

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

STEVEY G

Steven Greitzer, professionally celebrated as STEVEY G, stands at the forefront of Scalp Micropigmentation (SMP), where his expertise has been shaping the industry for over a decade. With over 11 years of dedicated experience, Steven has earned a reputation for his hyper-realistic work, seamlessly blending artistry with innovation. His role extends beyond that of an artist; he is a revered educator, a dynamic speaker, and a visionary innovator in the SMP landscape.

Steven's journey in SMP is marked by significant milestones. He is the brain behind the first dedicated SMP machine, a groundbreaking development that revolutionized the industry. His deep understanding of color dynamics led him to create the 'Color Theory for SMP,' a fundamental guide that has become a cornerstone in SMP training.

His expertise is not just limited to the technical aspects; he is widely acknowledged as a leading authority in SMP Science Theory, a testament to his comprehensive grasp of the field.

As an educator, Steven has been instrumental in shaping the careers of countless aspiring SMP professionals over his seven-year tenure as a trainer. His innovative training systems and techniques are now widely adopted as standard practices, reflecting his significant impact on SMP education.

Steven's insights and knowledge have made him a sought-after speaker, with over 50 engagements to his credit. His ability to articulate complex concepts in an accessible manner has made him a favorite at conferences and seminars.

In his entrepreneurial journey, Steven co-founded Sculpted Studios, a global brand with locations in Miami, New York City, and Phoenix, alongside his partner Carla Ricciardone. This venture not only showcases his business acumen but also his commitment to bringing top-tier SMP services to a broader audience.

His advocacy for education, standards, and regulation in the SMP industry is unwavering. As the Director of Innovation and Technology for the Crown International SMP Regulatory Board, Steven plays a pivotal role in shaping policies and practices that uphold the highest standards in the industry.

Currently, Steven divides his time between Sculpted Studios in Miami and New York City. Here, he continues to offer treatments, conduct in-person and online training sessions, and travels globally to speak at various conferences. His dedication to the field is evident in his continuous efforts to innovate, educate, and elevate the standards of Scalp Micropigmentation.

Steven Greitzer, as STEVEY G, is not just an SMP expert; he is a trailblazer whose contributions have indelibly shaped the landscape of Scalp Micropigmentation, making him a true icon in the industry.

A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

I am deeply passionate about the scalp micropigmentation (SMP) industry. With over 11 years dedicated to mastering this craft, my commitment extends beyond that of an artist; I am also a beneficiary of SMP, having experienced its transformative effects personally for 8 years. Recognizing the challenges and misinformation prevalent in the industry, I was compelled to create this guide for prospective SMP clients.

The journey to finding a qualified SMP artist can be daunting, cluttered with conflicting advice and pervasive myths. My intention is not self-promotion but to serve as an advocate for integrity and progress within the industry. I have been at the forefront of innovation, contributing to scientific research and pushing the boundaries of what is possible with SMP.

This guide is designed to demystify scalp micropigmentation, providing factual, unbiased information. I have witnessed the consequences of subpar treatments—individuals seeking to enhance their appearance and confidence, only to face disappointment and distress. My focus is not on promoting myself but on ensuring that individuals receive the finest outcomes, thereby elevating the standard of work across the entire industry.

Outstanding results in SMP can profoundly change lives, offering more than just aesthetic enhancements but a renewed sense of self. Unfortunately, the industry is often judged by its failures, which overshadow the unnoticeable excellence of top-tier work—the hallmark of true craftsmanship.

By sharing this guide, my aim is to foster growth and positivity within the SMP community, benefiting not just clients but also fellow artists and entrepreneurs. SMP has not only reshaped my clients' lives but has also allowed me to build a life beyond my expectations. Through this guide, I hope to extend that opportunity to others, ensuring that SMP is recognized not only for its potential to beautify but to transform lives profoundly and authentically.

If you ever need help or guidance, please contact me. I am here for you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stevy G". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent 'S' and 'G'.