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Adaptive Dermopigmentation: A Smarter Way to Permanent Makeup

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ABSTRACT

Permanent makeup often fades unevenly, changes color, or spreads over time. This happens because most techniques are designed for “average” skin, but real skin varies – in density, elasticity, age, hormones, and even climate. This article presents Adaptive Dermopigmentation (ADS™), a system that replaces fixed techniques with flexible decisions. By evaluating skin type, age, and environment before starting, the practitioner adjusts depth, pressure, pigment, and layering for each client. The result is more stable pigment, less correction, and longer-lasting satisfaction.

KEYWORDS:

Permanent makeup, adaptive dermopigmentation, skin types, aging skin, climate effects, pigment retention

1. THE PROBLEM: ONE TECHNIQUE DOES NOT FIT ALL

Permanent makeup is taught as a set of fixed techniques: specific needle depths, pressure levels, and layering methods. These techniques work well on “standard” skin. But in real life, skin is never standard.

Some clients have thin, delicate skin. Others have thick, oily skin. Some are young with fast healing. Others are over 50 with reduced elasticity. Some live in humid Florida, others in dry climates. Some have hormonal changes, scars, or previous pigment.

When the same technique is applied to different skins, the results vary wildly:

- Pigment may fade completely in six months.
- Color may turn blue, red, or grey.
- Edges may blur or spread.
- Strokes may merge into a solid block.

This is not the practitioner’s fault. It is the failure of technique-centered thinking. The problem is not bad execution – it is the lack of a decision system that adapts to the client.

We call this the Technique-Centered Variability Deficit. And ADS™ was built to solve it.

2. THE SOLUTION: ADAPTIVE DERMOPIGMENTATION (ADS™)

ADS™ is not a new set of strokes or a special needle. It is a decision framework. Before touching the skin, the practitioner evaluates four simple things:

- Skin structure – Is it dense or thin? Elastic or loose? Oily or dry?
- Age and hormones – Is the client under 35, over 45, menopausal, postpartum?
- Environment – Does the client live in high humidity? Get strong sun exposure?
- Previous work – Is there old pigment? Scar tissue? Hair loss?

Based on these answers, the practitioner chooses calibrated parameters – not fixed numbers, but safe ranges for depth, pressure, pigment concentration, and number of passes.

For example:

- Dense, young skin → standard depth, fewer passes, normal pigment.
- Thin, mature skin → shallower depth, lighter pressure, more sessions.
- Oily, humid climate → reduced saturation, controlled layering, avoid overworking.
- Scar tissue → very light pressure, multiple sessions, slow building.

This is not guesswork. It is structured adaptation. The same logic applies to brows, lips, eyeliner, and even restorative work (hair loss, areola, scars).

3. HOW IT WORKS IN PRACTICE

Step 1 – Assess the client

The practitioner looks and feels the skin. Is it bouncy or papery? Does it hold a stretch mark? Is it shiny (oily) or flaky (dry)? This takes two minutes but changes everything.

Step 2 – Choose the stability zone

Every skin type has a “safe zone” – a range of depth and pressure that will not cause blurring or rapid fading. ADS™ uses simple rules to find that zone.

Step 3 – Calibrate the procedure

- Depth: shallow for thin skin, medium for normal, deeper (but careful) for very dense skin.
- Pressure: light for mature or scarred skin, moderate for normal, controlled for oily.
- Pigment: standard concentration for most, slightly diluted for very thin skin, adjusted undertone for UV-prone clients.
- Layering: one or two passes for stable skin, three or more light passes for delicate skin.

Step 4 – Stage the sessions

Instead of trying to get full density in one visit, ADS™ often uses two or three sessions spaced 6–8 weeks apart. This lets the skin heal and shows how pigment behaves before adding more.

Step 5 – Follow the timeline

The first month is healing, not final. Real stability appears at 6 months. ADS™ teaches clients to expect gradual, proportional fading – not sudden disappearance or color change.

4. WHAT CLIENTS CAN EXPECT

With ADS™, clients get predictable fading, not surprises:

- At 6 months – pigment has settled. Density is about 70–80% of initial. Edges are still clean.

- At 12 months – mild softening, possible slight undertone shift (warmer or cooler depending on sun exposure).
- At 24 months – proportional fading. The tattoo looks lighter but still natural and well-defined.

If more density is needed, a short touch-up session restores it. Because the original work was done within the stability zone, touch-ups are easy and stable.

Clients in sunny climates may see their pigment become slightly warmer over time. ADS™ anticipates this – the practitioner may choose a slightly cooler undertone at the first session so that after UV exposure the final color is neutral.

5. WHY THIS MATTERS FOR PRACTITIONERS

Most permanent makeup artists learn by repeating fixed techniques. When a result fades or blurs, they blame themselves or the pigment. But often, the technique was simply not right for that skin.

ADS™ gives practitioners a simple decision tree:

- Thin skin? → go shallower.
- Mature skin? → use less pressure.
- Oily skin? → fewer passes, lower saturation.
- Scar tissue? → multiple light sessions.

This removes guesswork. It reduces corrections. Clients are happier because they know what to expect.

ADS™ does not require expensive machines or new pigments. It requires a shift in thinking – from “how do I do this technique?” to “what does this skin need?”

6. CONCLUSION

Permanent makeup does not have to be a gamble. Most problems – uneven fading, color change, blurring – come from using the same technique on different skins. Adaptive Dermopigmentation (ADS™) solves this by replacing fixed rules with flexible decisions.

By assessing skin structure, age, hormones, and climate, the practitioner chooses safe depth, pressure, pigment, and layering. The result is proportional fading, stable edges, and predictable color evolution.

ADS™ is not a secret technique. It is a common-sense system that any practitioner can learn. And it turns permanent makeup from an unpredictable craft into a reliable, client-friendly service.

Based on the book “Adaptive Dermopigmentation: A Progressive System in Permanent Makeup” by Liudmyla Hryshko.