



ELSEVIER



<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jiph>

REVIEW

Infective complications of tattooing and skin piercing

Ahmed Messahel*, Brian Musgrove

Department of Maxillofacial Surgery, Manchester University Hospital, NHS Trust Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9WL, United Kingdom

Received 6 November 2008; received in revised form 29 January 2009; accepted 29 January 2009

KEYWORDS

Tattooing;
Skin piercing;
Body piercing

Summary Body piercing appears to be gaining popularity and social acceptance. With the increase in the number of piercings and tattoos, it is likely that health care providers may see an increase in the complications resulting from these piercings. These may include the transmission of hepatitis viruses and bacteria at the time of the piercing or in the course of wound care. We review the infectious complications that have resulted from body piercing and tattooing that has been documented in the medical literature.

© 2009 King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences. Published by Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Contents

Introduction.....	8
Infectious complications of tattoos.....	8
Bacterial infections.....	8
Local and systemic infections.....	8
Syphilis.....	8
Mycobacteria infections.....	9
Other bacterial infections.....	9
Viral infections.....	9
Warts.....	9
Vaccinia.....	9
Pox viral infections.....	9
Herpes viruses.....	9
Viral hepatitis.....	9
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).....	10
Infectious complications of skin piercing.....	10

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +44 161 2761234.
E-mail address: ahmedmessahel@hotmail.com (A. Messahel).

Bacterial infections.....	10
Staphylococcus aureus	10
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	10
Streptococcal species	10
Escherichia coli	10
Other bacteria	10
Viral infections.....	10
Herpes and pox viral infections.....	10
Viral hepatitis.....	10
Prions	11
Other complications.....	11
Discussion.....	11
Conflict of interest statement.....	12
References.....	12

Introduction

Tattoo {tat-too} noun [1]

A permanent picture, design, or other markings made on the skin by pricking it with a sharp implement and staining it with indelible dye.

Skin piercing {peersing} adjective [2]

The practice of piercing holes in parts of the body so that rings or studs can be inserted for cultural, fashion, or sexual purposes (skin piercing = body piercing).

Throughout history tattooing and body piercing has been practiced by many cultures. The body of a 4000-year-old tattooed man was discovered in a glacier on the Austrian border in 1992. Egyptians in the period from 4000 to 2000 B.C., identified tattooing with fertility and nobility. In the late nineteenth century, tattooed royalty in England and European countries were fashionable. Lady Randolph (Winston Churchill's mother) had a snake tattooed around her wrist [3].

Like tattooing, body piercing has been practiced in many cultures for many centuries. Body piercing was often identified with royalty and portrayed courage and virility. Egyptian Pharaohs pierced their navels as a right of passage [4]. Roman soldiers pierced their nipples as a symbol of manhood. Mayans pierced their tongues as a spiritual ritual, and both sexes of Victorian royalty chose nipple and genital piercing.

In the last decade, tattooing and body piercing have become both fashionable and commonplace procedures easily available in the high street. Body piercing has advanced to a level way beyond superficial piercing. In extreme cases it involves complex surgery [5]. The art of tattooing and body piercing in the U.K. is not regulated (except London), and there is growing concern at the number and severity of injuries sustained from commercial tattooists

and body piercers. In a recent survey in the United Kingdom, 95% of general practitioners in Rochdale have had to deal with medical complications arising from body piercing [6].

Infectious complications of tattoos

Bacterial infections

Local and systemic infections

Severe local infections, involving gangrene, amputation, and even death, have occurred following tattooing [7]. These infections are hardly surprising, since in the nineteenth century tattooists used substances such as saliva, urine, dirty water, and tobacco juice topically during and after the tattooing process. Today, local infections may occur in tattoos applied by professionals but may occur more often when proper wound care is not carried out. Local infections that do arise are most commonly superficial pyodermas, including impetigo, erysipelas, furunculosis, and ecthyma. These infections have been reported to occur more commonly with home made tattoos [8].

Syphilis

In the latter half of the nineteenth century, syphilis was reported to be transmitted by tattoos [9]. In the majority of cases, the tattooist either had oral syphilitic lesions or had developed primary syphilis a few months before the tattooings. A striking finding was that many tattooists working with a single needle, often held the needle in their mouths between applications to suck out the residue of the pigment or to re-wet the needle before dipping it into the dried pigment prior to skin puncturing [7,9]. It is no wonder that so many people were infected with syphilis as a result of receiving tattoos.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/3406401>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/3406401>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)