



ART IN DERMATOLOGY

## THE TATTOO: A DECORATION THAT IS NOT ALWAYS HARMLESS.

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The use of tattooing on the skin with synthetic dyes is a practice that in recent decades is increasing, especially in young adults, as it is an increasingly widespread trend. But not always what looks like an artistic drawing on the skin turns out to be our safe ally and harmless companion for a lifetime. The authors report the case of a 53-year-old man covered with artistic tattoos on both upper limbs, made about 13 years earlier. The decoration of the tattoo was geometric, black and red. For about 3 months the patient had noticed an plaques of some areas that affected a large part of the tattoo, up to the whole upper limb. Initially, the plaques developed on the black color and subsequently extended to the red areas. The authors discuss the clinical-pathological aspects with the emphasis on the differential diagnosis between a chronic granulomatous reaction and a pseudo-lymphoma. Furthermore, they consider the case as singular as it extends on most of the tattooed area.

