



DERMATOPATHOLOGY

TATTOO REACTIONS- A MULTI FACETED MODERN EPIDEMIC

Dr Aditi Singh⁽¹⁾

Kaya Skin Clinic, Kaya Limited, New Delhi, India⁽¹⁾

BACKGROUND: Tattooing has been practiced by people all over the world since ancient times, more so in India, and it has religious and spiritual significance. But tattooing for cosmetic purposes is becoming quite popular in recent times. I report a histopathological case series of 5 patients who came to the OPD with various tattoo reactions.

I biopsied 5 patients who reported to dermatology OPD with complaints of variable pruritus over tattooed areas. Hematoxylin and eosin stained sections were analysed by a minimum of two pathologists.

OBSERVATION: Out of 5 histopathological slides studies, one was reported to be granulomatous inflammation with caseating necrosis suggestive of cutaneous tuberculosis, one was reported as sarcoidosis, one as granuloma annulare, and the remaining two as tattoo granuloma.

KEY MESSAGE: Several histopathological reaction patterns to tattoo ink have been described including pseudolymphomatous, lichenoid, granulomatous, scleroderma or morphea-like, sarcoidal, pseudoepitheliomatous hyperplasia, allergic contact dermatitis and photoallergy. I report this case series as it was interesting to note the myriad presentations a tattoo reaction can have. Also, dermatologists should be aware of these because tattooing as a cosmetic/recreational activity is on the rise.

