



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

## **RARE CASE OF TATTOO INOCULATION LUPUS VULGARIS ON RIGHT HAND AND CUTANEOUS TUBERCULOSIS OVER TATTOO ON LEFT SIDE OF NECK IN A YOUNG FEMALE**

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**Background:** A 25 year old healthy female presented in clinic with a raised, asymptomatic, persistent growth of 1×2cm on the dorsum of right hand overlying a multicolored tattoo and an oozing ulcerative lesion on left side of nape of neck over another multicolored tattoo, the tattoos been done at different time periods.

**Observation:** Her hematological parameters were within normal limits and she was non reactive to HIV ELISA. Histopathological examination of both the lesions was done. The hand lesion was suggestive of lupus vulgaris and the neck lesion was suggestive of cutaneous tuberculosis. X ray chest, ultrasonographic examination of abdomen and pelvis and CT scan showed no evidence of pulmonary or any other extra pulmonary tuberculosis infection. She was then started on anti tuberculosis medications.

**Key message:** It is emphasised that the likely mode of transmission of cutaneous tuberculosis through tattooing can be established only through circumstantial evidence. Rampant occurrence of tuberculosis in developing countries and increasing interest of tattooing among youths with prevailing unhygienic tattooing practises should alert us to this supposedly rarer method of its transmission.

