



SKIN MANIFESTATIONS OF INTERNAL DISEASE

## SARCOIDAL „TATOO“ GRANULOMA REACTION

*S. Đoric<sup>(1)</sup> - I. Andrejic Sbutega<sup>(1)</sup> - M. Aleksoska Jankijevic<sup>(1)</sup>*

*Bel Medic General Hospital, Dermatovenereology, Beograd, Serbia<sup>(1)</sup>*

**Background :** Tattoos may cause several different reactions of the skin. Among others is a sarcoidal reaction to the tattoo dye. It is clinically presented as elevated skin or nodule. Such patients may have sarcoidosis and it is necessary to do thorough corresponding diagnostic procedures.

**Observation:** We present a female patient, 36 years old, with three colored tattoo on the right shoulder. She noticed elevation of the black area of the tattoo ten days prior to the first examination. Occasional sensation of itch and burning were present. Blue and red tattooed skin was affected few weeks later.

**Personal medical history:** Hashimoto thyroiditis. At the time of first examination, patient was breastfeeding her four-month-old baby.

Elevated skin was firm, clinically presented as a keloid like lesion.

Histopathology of biopsied changed skin revealed a sarcoidal tattoo granuloma reaction.

Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) was elevated (83,8U/L (normal values 8-52)).

Calcium in 24 hours urine – 1,93 mmol/24h (normal values 2,5 - 7,5)

X ray of chest showed enlarged right hilus with no parenchymal changes and no signs of progressive lung disease.

Complete blood count (CBC) values were normal.

Patient was referred to a pulmonologist, who diagnosed sarcoidosis of the lungs, but introduced systemic therapy 4 months later, due to the breastfeeding.

**Key message:** Tattoo reactions should not be underestimated, since they may be the first sign of the systemic disease.

