



AESTHETIC AND COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY (LASERS SEPARATE CATEGORY)

THE UGLY OF BODY ART

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Tattoos and body piercing nowadays are seen in all cultures and continue to increase in popularity.

Tattoos are not a symptom of a mental disturbance. Most of the tattooed have simple motives and explanations such as "because I like it"; "because I'm a tomboy"; "to remember".

Tattooing in the army or in prison is also a need to illustrate one's uniqueness or belonging to a group where everything is under strict control and bend on destroying those very same things.

The primitive and nonsterile technical practices for tattooing in the past centuries led to many infectious diseases and even tuberculosis. Syphilis after tattooing is linked to unsterile needles, as well as the viral diseases (verrucae, AIDS, Hepatitis B and C).

Some diseases such as psoriasis, lichen planus, lupus erythematosus may be localized only on the tattooed area.

The mechanism of development of pseudolymphoma in a tattoo or lymphadenosis cutis benigna is still unknown, although this complications are relatively common.

From dermatological point of view the main risk after body piercing is bacterial or viral infection, as well as allergic sensitization to the used metals.

Piercings may cause dental fractures, chewing problems, speech changes, and sometimes nerve damage.

Piercing in the genital area can provoke tissue damage, thus leading to higher risk for sexually transmitted diseases.

Temporary henna tattoos can also be source of tattoo complications, especially of allergic reactions. In most of the cases paraphenylenediamine is the key factor for the development of allergic contact dermatitis. This allergen is especially dangerous, because of its cross reactivity with some drugs and substances like sulfonamides, benzocaine, para-amino benzoic acid, sulfonylureas, dapsone, and azo dyes.

