

24

THE AFTERCARE JUNGLE

Mel Dredd¹

¹*Ink By Mel; (Denmark/Australia)*

Aim: An overview of the aftercare treatment for tattoos and their impact of the healing process, as well as their potential complications.

This presentation will focus on trying to disentangle the various available methods of aftercare for tattoos, as well as formulating a base for a unified advice offered to clients by tattooists on which methods are best advised to take care of their healing tattoo. In trying to understand the impact of proper aftercare on the speed and quality of the healing, we'll also try to determine if poor aftercare has a negative impact on the health of the client, leading them to consult a physician, thus confusing the results of previous studies made on tattoo risks. Also, we'll be trying to determine if the infection rate is higher in clients with poor aftercare habits compared to clients with good aftercare habits in the context of professional studio tattooing.

Methods: Based on the results of an online survey of 50 (so far) tattoo clients, and numerous face to face discussions with tattoo artists and clients. The survey answers are analysed and compared to published studies on wound care to try and determine the aftercare impact.

Results: Trends are evident in the aftercare and are quite visible in the results.

Conclusion: From the surveys, we can conclude that an important part of the infections seem to be caused not by the tattoo process itself but by adverse events during the healing process. This is something that needs to be discussed and impressed on all clients and artists.