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**HEALTH IN THE TATTOO INDUSTRY: AN OBSERVATIONAL STUDY OF
448 FRENCH TATTOOISTS****Nicolas Kluger¹**¹*Helsinki University Central Hospital; (Helsinki, Finland)*

Aims: The data regarding the health of professional tattooists are inexistent. Tattooists are usually heavily tattooed and exposed daily to body fluids and skin-to-skin contacts with customers, tattoo inks, solvents, allergens, irritants, and work for hours often in inadequate positions using a vibrating tattoo machines. We analyzed the health status of active French tattooists

Methods: An observational self-reported internet survey was performed among the tattooists of the French Tattoo Union in November 2013, with emphasis on the prevalence of tattoo related complications and of systemic diseases

Results: Of the 448 respondents, 42.6% reported a "tattoo reaction" on a least one of their prior tattoos: transient itch (45.7%), wax-and-waning swelling (57%), and swelling after sun exposure (23%). A tattoo "allergy" on one color of the tattoo was found in 8%. Permanent itch, swelling and cutaneous infection were rare. No skin cancer on tattoo was reported. The main physical complaints were musculoskeletal: back pain (65%), finger pain (41.5%) and muscular pain (28.8%). Finger pain, back pain, muscular pain and carpal tunnel symptoms/tingling sensations on the fingers occurred in 88% 61.5%, 68% and 84%, of the cases after having started their activity ($p < 0.001$) Autoimmune diseases, cancer and pregnancy complications remained at a low level here.

Conclusion: Professional tattooists have a high prevalence of minor complaints (transient itch and swelling) and photosensitivity on their tattoos like in the general tattooed population. They have also a high prevalence of musculoskeletal disorders including back pain and carpal tunnel syndrome implying preventive strategies.