

**NEW FRONTIERS OF MEDICAL TATTOOS****Alberto Renzoni**<sup>1</sup>, Antonia Pirrera<sup>1</sup>, Rita Molinaro<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>*Istituto Superiore DI Sanità; (Rome, Italy)*<sup>2</sup>*Ulss 9 – Dipartimento Prevenzione – Treviso; (Treviso, Italy)*

Dermopigmentation for medical purposes, or medical tattoo, is performed in order to re-establish bodily integrity in patients suffering from various diseases or who have undergone surgical intervention. In addition to the tattoos carried out for nipple-areola reconstruction, first used three decades ago, new applications for medical tattoos have been tested, showing great versatility.

There are many issues involved in this kind of tattooing as it deals with people who have often had serious illnesses and who still bear the physical and psychological signs. Moreover, many of these patients undergo drug treatments that can interact with their general state of health. Medical tattoo procedures require execution which must comply with conditions of hygiene and asepsis. They also require the use of suitable instruments, materials, specific inks, and great, professional qualifications and skills.

In Italy, we conducted a study on cases of medical tattoos, on how to perform them and on the training of tattooists. Currently, training is also offered by many manufacturers, carried out in 2 or 3 days, with the main purpose of selling their products, but it is completely inadequate. In fact, the tattooist must necessarily interact with a physician or a medical, multidisciplinary team. In addition, psychological consequences were even found among tattooists (e.g. burnout syndrome). Our study will show new applications for medical tattoos and will propose a professional profile and an operating protocol for such tattooing in safe conditions.