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TATTOO AND ADVERSE REACTIONS: A TERRIBLE GHOST

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Tattooing has been practiced for centuries in many cultures, and has become increasingly popular in Western countries since the 1970s, with a parallel increase in adverse reactions. It is well established that tattoos may be associated not only with different skin diseases, like transient acute inflammatory reactions at the site of needling, infective reaction, but also with serious medical complications such as allergic contact dermatitis, contact urticaria, photodermatitis and other dermatoses like psoriasis, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), sarcoidosis or localisation of skin cancer (including basal cell carcinomas, squamous cell carcinomas, melanoma and keratoacanthoma) in the area of the tattoo. The reason for this occurrence has not been fully elucidated, but a locus minoris resistentiae or the isomorphism of Koebner has been hypothesised.

We present three interesting clinical case of cutaneous reaction to tattoo: a 41 years old patient with ketatoachantoma in red tattooing area; a 32 years old female with folliculitis and a 35 years old man with flat warts in red area of tattoo HIV related.

These clinical cases highlight the importance to performing the tattoo in a sterile environment and to perform an adequate screening for infective and immune-mediated disease.