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BELGIAN SUPERIOR HEALTH COUNCIL ADVISORY REPORT ON TATTOO AND PMU SAFETY

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Aim: The increasing popularity of tattoos and permanent make-up has raised the concern of the authorities over these techniques. A working group has been set up on this subject within the Belgian Superior Health Council. An advisory report aimed at limiting the risks of these procedures was elaborated.

Method: The report is based on literature search, conferences and expert opinion on the subject of tattooing and permanent make up.

Result: The board of the Belgian Superior Health Council approved the report that will be published in March 2015. It concerns a number of guidelines on hygiene, tattooing procedures, measures to guarantee safer products for the consumer, to improve the control system in Belgium as well as a proposal to implement uniform regulations on tattoo inks and body art procedures in Europe. A public awareness campaign will be launched in the near future.

Conclusion: The committee concludes that body art procedures, more in particular tattooing and PMU are not without health risks. The authorities have a responsibility to inform the public and to take measures to prevent the complications with harmonisation on a European level as the ultimate goal.