

P7

NEW CLINICAL CLASSIFICATION OF TATTOO REACTIONS

Katrina Hutton Carlsen¹, Jørgen Serup¹, Mitra Sepehri²

¹*Department of Dermatology, Bispebjerg University Hospital, The Tattoo Clinic; (Copenhagen, Denmark)*

²*Wound Healing Center, Bispebjerg University Hospital; (Copenhagen, Denmark)*

Background: Tattoo reactions are divided into infectious and non-infectious complications. In the past the diagnosis relied on histopathology which, unfortunately, is not specific and distinctive regarding the mechanism of reactions. These reactions are allergic, urticarial, foreign body induced manifestations etc. The pathomechanism rather than the histologic pattern determines the choice of therapy.

Aim: To introduce a new and simple clinical diagnose classification scheme of tattoo reactions. The classification is to be applied by dermatologists and general practitioners in their diagnostic process.

Methods: The classification is based on extensive clinical experience and on clinical information originating from patients' records.

Results: More than 360 patients with more than 500 tattoo reactions were systematically examined, supported by biopsy. Clinical photos were taken that clearly illustrate the typical tattoo reactions seen in the clinic. A diagnostic classification system is presented illustrated with photos of typical cases. The project includes a therapy algorithm based on clinical diagnosis (soon to be published). The system shall argue rational therapy such as surgery (especially dermatome shaving), laser treatment and medical approaches. A flow chart (pocket-brochure/app) with suggested treatment modalities will be introduced.

Conclusions: The new classification system based on large patient material and a spectrum of treatments will simplify diagnosis and treatment of tattoo reactions. The aim of the classification system is to be used as a new standard in dermatology.