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QUALITY OF LIFE AND SUBJECTIVE COMPLAINTS OF TATTOO REACTIONS MEASURED BY DLQI AND THE ISS SCORE OF ITCH

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Aim: Tattoos are a trend with increasing side-effects. The burden of tattoo reactions was not studied in the past. We aimed to assess tattoo reactions and their influence on quality of life and itching by utilizing the Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI) scoring system and the Itch Severity Scale (ISS).

Methods: Patients attending the "Tattoo Clinic" at Bispebjerg University Hospital, Denmark with tattoo problems spanning more than three months were invited. 40 patients participated, during September-November 2012. Patients attending their routine consultations completed the ISS and DLQI questionnaires. Both scoring systems are validated.

Results: Patients with tattoo reactions experienced reduced quality of life, DLQI score 7.4, and were burdened by itch, ISS score 7.2. Both DLQI and ISS results attained the level of discomfort of known skin diseases such as pruritus, eczema and psoriasis. Even small tattoo reactions showed high scores.

Conclusions: Sufferers of tattoo reactions have reduced quality of life and are often burdened by itching attaining the level of other cumbersome afflictions recognized as dermatological diseases associated with itch. Tattoo reactions warrant diagnosis and treatment with same professional intent shared with other skin diseases.