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**SAFETY IN TATTOING****Rita Molinaro<sup>1</sup>**<sup>1</sup>*Breast Unit Treviso Hospital; (Treviso, Italy).*

Since 2008 the “Breast Unit” at the Treviso Hospital, Italy, is leading a pilot project with the aim of apply an innovative method of dermopigmentation in medical fields.

We have treated in addition to the breast: maxillofacial pathologies, connectively and skin grafts, Koebner syndrome, vitiligo, alopecia and alopecia after chemo-therapy, burn scars.

This innovative method is characterized by the following features:

- Multi-disciplinary approach
- Sterilization philosophy: sterilized outfit (autoclaveable tattoo machine), sterile working place, sterile pigments
- Special pigments

**Multi-disciplinary approach:** Breast Unit is a team of full trained specialists in breast cancer diagnosis and treatment

The core team is composed by Breast Surgeon, Plastic Surgeon, Breast Radiologists, Breast Oncologists, Radiotherapist, Breast Pathologists, Psychologist

The multi-disciplinary team drives the patient from the diagnosis to the tattoo.

For five years the specialist in medical tattoo is entered to make part of the multidisciplinary team and collaborates actively with team specialists.

The specialist in medical tattoo shares with the other members of the team the right time for tattooing, hygienic sanitary protocols and management of possible complications.

**Philosophy of sterilization:** We have designed and patented:

- Sterilized working field including towels, plastic covers, color caps, shirts, clorexidina, demographic pencil with ruler, various caps, rubber bands, TNT patch, needles
- Autoclaveable tattoo gun: the first fully autoclave-sterilizable electronic machine, including motor, cable and hand piece

**Special pigments:** Single use, gamma radiated, produced with sterile water in certified clean room.

**Conclusion:** After 5 years working and more than 100 patients treated and monitored we did not register any complication.

Our tattoo applications do not interfere with diagnostic systems such as mammography or magnetic resonance.

High satisfaction of the patient, big savings in time for the operating rooms, big savings in time for the doctors (i.e. time for medication, follow-up, etc.), no convalescence.

It is important that the tattoo professional is trained and coached in a new and specific way. We are now dealing with ISS (Superior Italian Institute for Health) with the aim of creating specific rules and training path.