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TATTOO EPIDEMIOLOGY, TRENDS AND CHALLENGES IN THE YEAR 2013, EUROPE AND OVERSEAS COUNTRIES

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For the past 20 years, tattooing has gained tremendous popularity in Europe. In Germany, 8,5% of the population (aged between 14 and 90 yo) would have a tattoo. Similar trends are found in France according to a recent poll (10%). But the prevalence increases especially among the young, up to 15 to 25% according to the country. Such trend is important as it raises two different issues:

- 1) the young may not always perceive risks of tattooing, especially if they have congenital diseases such as haemophilia or a cardiopathy and
- 2) this very same population will age with their tattoos raising potential consequences for further management of various conditions. Besides, the tattoo market includes a whole industry including tattooists, shop managers, suppliers and ink manufacturers. Tattooists are also exposed daily to tattoo inks with potential health issues. Proper education and formation of tattooists is mandatory and should go beyond infections control. National laws and legislation should be adapted to the tattooists' activities both to ensure safety for the customers and that the tattoo industry can work properly.