

42

ALLERGY PATCH TESTING IN SUSPECTED ALLERGIC TATTOO REACTIONS**Marléne Isaksson¹**

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Background: Allergic reactions to tattoo inks seem very uncommon in spite of the high frequency of permanent tattoos. It is very difficult to find the incriminating substance if a contact allergy to the ink is suspected. Many tattoo inks contain azo dyes, some of which are allergenic. The most common organic ink sensitizers belong to the azo dyes, also used for coloring synthetic textile materials (e.g., polyester). Several investigations have demonstrated that commercial azo dyes contain impurities or intentionally added substances, which also are sensitizers.

Aim: To investigate the patch test results from 1995 up until 2013 at the department of Occupational and Environmental Dermatology in Malmö and how tattoo inks had been tested.

Method: Analysis of patch test results retrieved from DALUK, an electronic system for collecting patch test results..

Results: 18 patients had been patch tested with tattoo inks since 1995. Inks had been tested as is, at 50, 25, 10 and 1% in water or petrolatum. Only one patient had reacted to his black ink, tested as is.

Conclusions: Patch testing is almost always negative. It is mostly very difficult to get information on the composition of the inks and test with individual components.