

46

HENNA TATTOOS, PPD ALLERGY AND CROSS SENSITIZATION

Jana Kazandjieva¹

¹Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Medical Faculty, Medical University; (Sofia, Bulgaria).

Para-phenylene diamine (PPD) is a well known allergen. Nevertheless it is widely used for the making of temporary henna tattoos. PPD is added to the henna paste in order to speed up the process of preparing and to intensify the color of the dye. Afterwards it is applied directly onto the skin. The risk of skin sensitization is due to the high concentrations of PPD, the long duration of skin contact, and the lack of a neutralizing agent.

We summarized 50 own cases with allergic reactions due to paint-on tattoos and try to outline the main characteristics for this special allergic contact dermatitis. In all cases PPD was confirmed to be the key factor for the development of allergic contact dermatitis. We found various interesting facts, concerning ethiology, incubation period, clinical picture and complications of the allergic contact dermatitis due to temporary henna tattoos.

Reactions to PPD observed in temporary tattoos are primarily delayed-type hypersensitivity (type IV) presenting as allergic contact dermatitis, lichenoid reactions and even erythema multiforme. Type I reactions have also been shown to occur. According to our opinion THT is hazardous for one's health.