

## 8

### MEDICAL AND OTHER COMPLICATIONS OF TATTOOING

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Body art has been practiced throughout history by various cultures. In the last decades tattoos have become very popular in all social classes and ages groups. All body-modifying methods can lead to complications, which depend on the hygienic conditions in which the procedures are performed, on the training and the skills of the practitioner and on the materials used. Allergic reactions can be attributed to the substances used. Poor hygienic standards and careless procedures can result in localized infections but can also lead to severe life-threatening conditions or even result in irreversible damage. Blood-borne diseases can be transmitted (hepatitis B, C, HIV). Scarring, granuloma and keloid formation can occur. Interference with Magnetic Resonance Imaging has also been reported. Health care professionals should be aware of the complications that can arise from these procedures.