

## P4

### STAPHYLOCOCCAL SCALDED SKIN SYNDROME (SSSS) PROCEEDED BY IMPETIGO IN A TATTOO ON THE FOREARM. A RARE BUT SERIOUS COMPLICATION

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**Aim:** To present a challenging case of an unusually aggressive bacterial infection causing adult SSSS in a patient proceeded by a tattoo with imported Chinese ink bought via the internet. Emphasize the lack of information, control and legislation of the potentially harmful elements and ingredients of the tattoo ink.

**Methods:** Case report and review of literature.

**Results:** 48-year-old man in previous good health developed signs of impetigo after a homemade tattoo on the left forearm in the same area with red and yellow secretions cultured positive for *Staphylococcus Aureus* (many colonies). A few days later he developed Nikolsky sign-positive tender enlarged flaccid bullae involving most parts of the body. The bullae ruptured easily and left an erythematous base. The temperature rose to 38,2 °C. Laboratory tests revealed an elevated C reactive protein of 22 mg/L [ $<10$ ], leukocytosis  $12.6 \times 10^9/L$  [4.4-11] with neutrophilia. After he received a relevant antibiotic treatment of intravenous cefuroxime the clinical condition improved significantly, only for a short period. Then the patient developed another kind of exfoliative erythrodermia diagnosed as a systemic allergic reaction and was treated with high potency Prednisolone (40 mg daily) and later Cyclosporine (100 mg x 2 daily) with successful recovery.

**Conclusion:** Contaminated tattoo ink, especially imported from Asia, might pose a severe health-problem as illustrated in this case. We haven't found other cases of Adult SSSS due to possible contaminated ink in the literature.

We can imagine the scale of future problems when contaminated ink may contain methicillin resistance, MRSA.

