

## P8

### **MASSIVE PSEUDOEPITHELIOMATOUS HYPERPLASIA IN A TATTOO. A RARE BUT SERIOUS COMPLICATION OR AN UNDERREPORTED AND UNREGULATED HEALTH HAZARD?**

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**Aim:** To present a challenging case of an unusually aggressive hyperkeratotic tattoo reaction in a 42 year old caucasian female. Emphasize the lack of information, control and legislation of the potentially harmful elements and ingredients of the tattoo inks.

**Methods:** Case report and a literature overview.

**Results:** The patient was in previous good health, had a known food allergy to herring since childhood and contact allergy to zinc. The lesion was biopsied and due to a diagnosis of keratoacanthoma (ka), she was referred for excision and a split skin transplantation. She made an uneventful recovery and now bears an unsightly scar on her leg in remembrance of a failed decorative procedure.

**Conclusion:** To date only 7 cases of tattoo induced peh are reported in the english language literature with striking similarity, 4 occurred in the red "ink" as in this case and 2 in purple. They all occurred within the first months from initial application of the tattoo and initial diagnosis being made of a keratocanthoma. The differential diagnosis of an infection, bacterial/mycobacterial, fungal or viral was ruled out. PEH bears a strong resemblance to squamous cell carcinoma and makes this an alarming and difficult diagnosis to make. Treatment varies but the symptoms are aborted only with mechanical removal of the tattoo.