

reports and press releases

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Piercing and tattooing: frequency of complications justifies regulation

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Piercing and tattooing: frequency of complications justifies regulation

Key-words : Body piercing ; Tattooing ; Cosmetic techniques ; Coloring agents/Adverse effects ; Foreign-body reaction.
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SUMMARY

The constantly increasing frequency of piercing and tattooing as well as of their complications calls for regulations to be established in order to reduce the number of incidents and accidents occurring after such procedures.

The more frequent complications are infectious, bacterial or viral, occurring early or late. Some are serious, local or diffuse: gangrene, endocarditis. Cases of tuberculous contamination have been reported and, even, of viral hepatitis. Allergic complications are not rare, including risk for such an acquired sensitization to lead to later harmful consequences. Late systemic complications have also been described: pseudolymphomas, sarcoidosis.

Attempts of regulation have been made in several foreign countries, as well as in the E.U.; in France, some members of the Parliament have managed to establish official documents yet to be published.

The french National Academy of Medicine, considers that such procedures, mostly piercing, as presently too often carried out, and being real body attacks with skin or mucous membrane breaking in and foreign body insertion, absolutely require safety conditions identical to those of a medico-surgical procedure. This particularly applies to some areas (cartilaginous areas, mouth and tongue, nose, nipple, genitalia...); however, simple earlobe piercing could be withdrawn from this regulation, provided that correct disinfection is carried out.

Considering as really dangerous the way too often in use during the practice of these procedures, the Academy expresses eleven advices concerning, mainly : information to future customers particularly on possible risks, necessary parents authorization concerning minors, conformity to norms of premises and used equipment, necessary training and legal responsibility of working staff, essential checking through the sanitary authority, as well as ban from blood giving during the following year.

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L'Académie, saisie dans sa séance du mardi 11 décembre 2007, a adopté le texte de ce rapport à l'unanimité.

Pour copie conforme,

Le Secrétaire perpétuel,

Professeur Jacques-Louis BINET

02/04/08

* Constitué de : **Membres de l'Académie** : MM. ARTHUIS v, BANZET, BAZEX (Secrétaire), BEANI, CHATELAIN, CIVATTE (Président), GODEAU, HENRION, HUREAU, LACCOURREYE, Mmes MARCELLI, MONERET-VAUTRIN.

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