

INFORMATION AND RISKS CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF A TATTOO

Please read all this information carefully and inform your tattooer if you have any reason to doubt your suitability to get a tattoo.

A tattoo is a manual piece of art on a living human body. Because every skin, body, immune system and connective tissue is different, the tattoo might deviate from the design made on paper. In rare cases, the ink can flow in the skin ("blow-out"). This risk can not be excluded completely, since it is mainly dependant on the condition of your connective tissue. This also goes for the lines healing thicker than they have been initially tattooed.

There is more risk involved:

* On places with a lot of movement, e.g. ribs, hips, neck, ankles and wrists

* When there is a large weight loss or gain (or pregnancy), mainly with effect on hips, belly, upper legs or arms.

Keep into account that a tattoo will never remain as black as when it is first tattooed. Several factors of the body and your behaviour in the sun can impact this process. In general a fineline tattoo will heal a bit lighter than a bold lined tattoo. A touch-up is only advisable when there are semi-disappeared areas in the linework. Completely re-lining a tattoo to make it more black brings the risk of it becoming much thicker.

- * We advise you to follow our after care instructions, in order to eliminate the risks during the healing process.
- * Getting tattooed can be painful, your skin could turn red and swell. If these symptoms worsen during the healing process, it could be a sign of infection and we recommend checking it with your doctor.
- * Some complications can be linked to your health condition. Because it is sometimes necessary to take precautions, it is very important for your safety that your tattooer is well informed.
- * Tattoos are permanent and it is possible, depending on the inks used (we only use REACH approved inks), that they cannot be completely removed.
- * When in doubt about the possible health issues, medical advice will have to be won first and if necessary, the tattoo session will be postponed.

Please do not get tattooed when:

- * You are pregnant or breastfeeding
- * You are under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- * The tattoo will be placed on a mole or a scar (especially when this has been caused by the removal of a melanoma)

Should any of these conditions or circumstances be applicable, please consult your doctor before getting a tattoo.

These conditions or circumstances can increase the risk of complications:

- 1) Skin:
 - a) Skin infection, regardless of location and sort of infection
 - b) Allergies (e.g. latex, metals, conservatives)
 - c) Parts of skin that seem damaged or abnormal, e.g. moles
 - d) Active skin diseases (eczema, psoriasis)
 - e) Skin areas that have been treated by a plastic surgeon or radiotherapy (incl recent scarring and / or keloids)
 - f) A recently tattooed area that is not fully healed yet
 - g) An area that has recently had laser therapy in order to remove a tattoo, that is not fully healed yet
- 2) General health conditions:
 - a) Haemophilia or any other clotting disorder
 - b) Epilepsy
 - c) Cardiovascular diseases
 - d) Diabetes
 - e) Any auto immune disease
 - f) Immunosuppression or any condition with a suppressed immune system
 - g) Sarcoidosis

ADDITIONAL RISKS

PREGNANCY AND BREASTFEEDING

We advise you not to get a tattoo during your pregnancy or while you are breastfeeding. Not all risks are clear. Should you get an infection caused by the tattoo, there are certain kinds of medication you are not allowed to take, due to risks for your (unborn) child.

WHILE TAKING ANTIBIOTICS

Since Antibiotics can effect the healing process in a bad way, we advise you to not get tattooed when you have had antibiotics in your body in the past 10 days.

DIABETICS

There is a chance your medication can impact the infection risk during the healing process of your tattoo. Please consult your doctor on your plans to get a tattoo. She or he can advise you.

FOR PEOPLE WITH A BLOOD CLOTTING DISEASE AND PEOPLE TAKING ANTICOAGULANTS

If you have a blood clotting disease or take anticoagulants, your skin may bleed faster during tattooing and bleed longer than it would on other people. To minimise the risk of serious bleeding, large tattoos are not recommended. If you do want a large tattoo, preferably have it done in several stages.

FOR PEOPLE WITH CHRONIC SKIN DISEASES

In case of a chronic skin disease (such as psoriasis or sarcoidosis in the skin, for example), there is a chance that you will also develop your skin symptoms in the place you have had tattooed. This is called the Koebner phenomenon. To reduce the chances of this, it is not recommended to get a tattoo at times when your skin disease is very active. And also preferably don't get a tattoo in places where your skin disease is frequent. If you have ever had melanoma (skin cancer), or it runs in your family, it is not recommended to get a tattoo. On tattooed skin, new melanomas are harder to detect at an early stage.

FOR PEOPLE WITH HEART OR VASCULAR DISEASE

If you have a heart or vascular disease, there is a risk of contracting endocarditis (an infection of the inner wall of the heart) through tattooing. Because of this risk, it is not recommended to get a tattoo if you do not have your heart condition under optimal control.

FOR PEOPLE WITH AN IMMUNE DISORDER OR MEDICATIONS THAT CAN WEAKEN THE IMMUNE SYSTEM

Even when done safely and hygienically, you are at risk of infection when getting a tattoo. If you have an immune disorder (this includes leukaemia) or are taking medication that can weaken the immune system, this risk is increased.

