

Tangential excision and skin grafting for sever chronic ulcerative allergic reaction to tattoo pigment. A case report and review of literature in the context of a European ban on coloured pigment tattoos.



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Introduction

- Tattooing is used in both recreationally and for scar management including burn patients to disguise burn scar
- knowledge about the clinical spectrum, pathogenesis and treatment of complications from this practice is limited
- This prompted ECHA (European chemical agency) to ban coloured pigments for use in tattooing
- Case reports of Laser tattoo removal itself initiating local and more widespread allergic reactions

Purpose of Study

- 1. Share our experience with a severe case of chronic ulceration from granulomatous reaction to red tattoo pigment managed successfully with tangential excision and split skin grafting.
- 2. Provide perspectives on the ECHA coloured pigment ban along with literature review.

Method

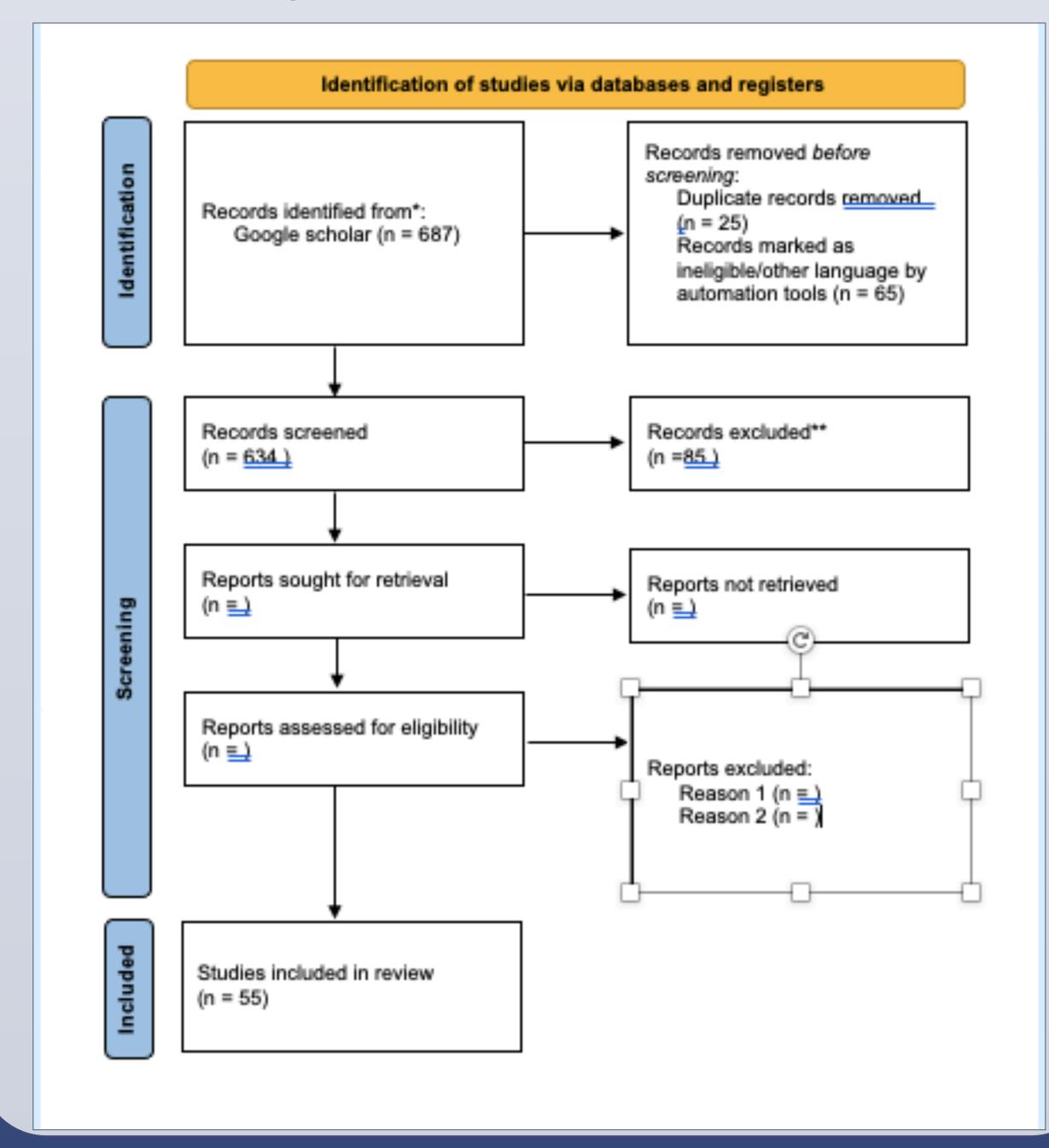
- Patients with severe ulcero- necrotic allergic reaction to red tattoo pigment underwent tangential excision and split skin grafting
- Literature review searching PubMed+Google Scholar
- Include
- Colored dye complications
- Skin only complications
- Excluded articles relating to
- Temporary tattoo (henna)
- Scarification
- Black dye







51 year old with red tattoo done to right calf with delayed allergic reaction and progressively worsened to become ulceronecrotic with inflammation. 1 year post op with no complications



Result & Discussion

634 articles were identified with the search however only around 55 articles remained with the exclusion criterion

- Most complications with the red dye
- Variety of treatment options mainly non surgical

Complication	Clinical finding	Dye
Immunological Reactions	Allergic contact dermatitis Lichenoid dermatoses Granulomatous Pseudolmphomatous Pseudoepitheliomatou s hyperplasia	Red
Infections	Bacterial Viral Fungal	Multicolo ur
Systemic / Local Reactions	Psoriasis Systemic sarcoidosis Vitiligo Cutaneous vasculitis	Red followed by green
Malignance	Keratoacanthoma Rest coincidental Conclusion	Red

- We describe our successful preliminary experience with tangential excision and skin grafting in delayed severe ulcero-proliferative allergic reaction to red tattoo pigment which could be a definitive treatment.
- Alternative to numerous sessions of Qswitched Laser treatment - which might worsen the condition or be ineffective due to the inflammation
- Comprehensive review of literature

Reference

- Gurnani, Pooja, et al. "Comparing the efficacy and safety of laser treatments in tattoo removal: a systematic review." Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology (2020).
- Serup, Jørgen, Mitra Sepehri, and Katrina Hutton Carlsen. "Classification of tattoo complications in a hospital material of 493 adverse events." Dermatology 232.6 (2016): 668-678.