Tattoo Granuloma
Shaikh W N, Rambhia K, Mukhi J, Singh R P

A 20 year male student presented with itchy, painlesserythematous to skin colored plaques studded with nodules along the tattoo on ulnar side of right hand since 20 days with tattoo being done 1 month back. Nodules and plaques were seen along red ink, sparing green ink on the tattoo (Fig. 1). General and systemic examination was unremarkable.

Biopsy was done from a nodule, revealing granulomatous inflammation (Fig. 2) with foreign and langhans type of giant cells with pigment both intracellularly within giant cells and extracellularly (Fig. 3).

Patient was started on high potent corticosteroid (Halobestol) topically twice a day under occlusion for 2 weeks. Significant improvement in itching and reduction in size of lesion was noted. (Fig. 4)

Tattooing is becoming popular nowadays in all age groups, increasing the cutaneous reactions parallerly. Tattoo colors consist of inorganic pigments, organic dyes, or a combination of both. In the past, it appears that heavy metals, that were the backbone of tattooing for decades, have been
Reactions to tattoos are increasingly being encountered in clinical dermatological practice. It is important for dermatologists to be aware of these reactions as their occurrence is bound to rise in future with increasing popularity of tattooing as a body art.

Conflicts of interest: none reported by authors

References:


