

Tattoos - Q & A

Some questions on tattoos which were posted by visitors to the Better Health Channel. Our experts provide the answers.

Q. Can you get a tattoo if you have ever had scabies?

Scabies is an infestation of the skin caused by a very small mite not visible to the naked eye. It burrows into the skin and produces pimple-like irritations. Some people may suffer from extended dermatitis following scabies. Once the infestation has been treated effectively, the skin returns to its normal state. Once the skin is back to normal, you can have a tattoo with no problems related to the previous scabies.

Q. My 19 year old son had a tattoo put on his back and part of it went over the edge of a mole. Is this dangerous?

Where a tattoo extends over a mole, it may be more difficult to identify the usual changes that are displayed by pigmented skin lesions. Changes in size, shape, regularity of the edge and other changes may be obscured by the tattoo. The tattoo will not increase the chances of the mole becoming cancerous.

Where to get help

- Your doctor
- Dermatologist

Want to know more?

Go to [More information](#) for support groups, related links and references.

This page has been produced in consultation with, and approved by:

St Vincent's Hospital - Department of Dermatology

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